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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate the credibility of CUC's explanation for its power rate increases, 1 being equivalent to "highly questionable" and 10 equivalent to "totally credible"?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

$4 Gas
The national average price of regular gas crept up to $4 a gallon for the first time over the weekend.

BUSINESS...Page 13

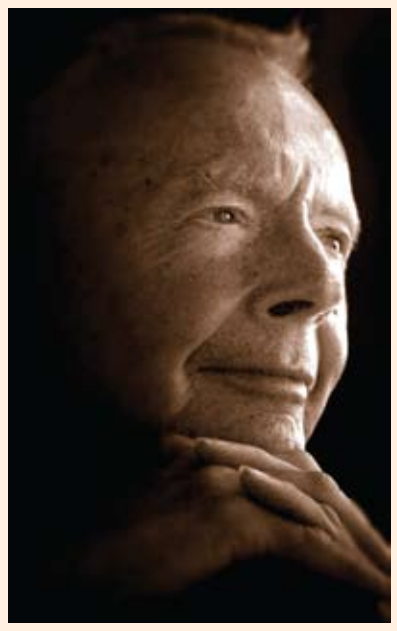
Eight Killed
Wicked weekend storms pounded the country from the Midwest to the East Coast, killing at least eight.

NATION...Page 14

Dog Show
The island's 2nd annual dog show competition was held last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

Life & style...PAGE 18

DOI's Domenech, Pula check out Pagan. **PAGE 3**
Local hospital benefits from shower of donations. **PAGE 6**



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
James Bell poses for a photo at the *Saipan Tribune* office on Beach Road Garapan.

Bell swims Tinian-Saipan channel under five hours

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

A 70-year-old man who sought to repeat the historic swim he made nearly 30 years ago successfully crossed the channel between Saipan and Tinian yesterday morning, swimming the five-mile distance in less than five hours.

James H. Bell was celebrating his birthday when he made the crossing early yesterday morning, with no es-

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Study: Marine monument will infuse $333M to NMI

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

An analysis of the Pew Charitable Trust's proposal to establish a marine monument in the CNMI's northern islands says the plan will boost the Commonwealth's economy by millions each year and draw thousands of new tourists to the region.

The monument plan has proven controversial among some local government officials and lawmakers who say it will lead to restrictions on fishing and other activities in the area, yet proponents of the idea say the new analysis should assuage many fears surrounding it.

The study, authored by University of Guam economist Dr. Thomas Iverson,

See STUDY on Page 4

ON A MISSION
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
A U.S. military aircraft is seen preparing for take off at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport yesterday afternoon. Several military aircraft were seen taking off and landing yesterday at the airport, although there have been no announcements of any activity in the area.

Miura

'Unidentified dead woman found in '79 was Miura's missing GF'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An unidentified woman who was found dead in a vacant field in Lake View Terrace in 1979 had been identified by the Los Angeles Police District as Kazuyoshi Miura's missing girlfriend.

L.A.P.D. Detective Rick Jackson stated in his affidavit that it was only in 1984 when they were able to establish that the unidentified dead woman was Miura's missing girlfriend, Chizuko Shiraishi.

Jackson's affidavit was among the documents the Attorney General's Office had submitted to oppose giving Miura bail.

Jackson said that Shiraishi was last seen on March 29, 1979, when she boarded PamAm flight 002 from Tokyo to Los Angeles. Shiraishi was never seen or heard from again.

On May 4, 1979, Jackson said, the body of a partially decomposed

See UNIDENTIFIED on Page 4

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Local

Man gets 9 days for poaching at sanctuary

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona has imposed a nine-day prison term on a man who took fish and lobster from a sanctuary area in Marpi.

Manglona sentenced Shun Jin Mo to six months in prison, all suspended except for the first nine days. The judge gave Mo credit for the nine days he has already served in jail.

Manglona placed the defendant on six months unsupervised probation and required him to pay a $25 court assessment fee.

Mo was one of two men caught getting fish and lobster from the sanctuary.

Manglona said the Legislature's purpose of creating a sanctuary to be used to gradually and naturally repopulate the depopulated areas of the lagoon must be enforced in order to protect the islands' limited and precious resources.

"This enforcement was promptly made when the defendants were arrested at the scene, and this defendant [Mo] has acknowledged the wrongfulness on his conduct through his guilty plea," said Manglona in her written order issued yesterday.

Mo and Zhen Hua Guo were charged with taking wildlife in a sanctuary area.

Mo and his lawyer, assistant public defender Malik Edwards, signed a plea agreement with the government, represented by assistant attorney general Melissa Simms.

The defendant pleaded guilty.

In accepting the plea agreement, Manglona said it is a crime that does not involve the infliction of any bodily injury to another person or the damage of property of another person.

"It is nevertheless a crime because it is a conduct that the Commonwealth Legislature has deemed worthy of restricting for the benefit of the public interest in conserving and protecting our natural resources," Manglona said.

The judge said Mo was found with fish and lobster at the Grotto Sanctuary in Marpi.

"There was no suggestion that the defendant did this to provide for his personal sustenance in order to survive," Manglona said.

Mo's co-defendant, Guo, entered a guilty plea in April 2008. Manglona handed down the same sentence on Guo.

The government charged Guo and Mo after a Fish and Wildlife conservation officer caught them taking fish and lobster from the Grotto sanctuary on March 12, 2008.

LIBERATION DAY OPENING JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Parents watch their children ride the Ferris wheel during the grand opening of the 62nd Liberation Day celebration Friday night at the Garapan Fishing Base. The monthlong celebration will feature cultural presentations, food, crafts, local bands and musicians.

15 students selected for Byrd Scholarship

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fifteen incoming college freshmen from Saipan and Tinian qualified for the competitive Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship, the Public School System announced.

The recipients hail from both public and private schools, whose qualifications were measured based on high academic achievements during their final years in high school.

Saipan students Anita B. Hofschneider, Taylor E. Smith, Kristina Bermudes, Wen Hui Ye, Kayla M. Techur, Kathleen Johnson, Nicole Sonia G. Castro, Letitia Wu Cabrera, Ann Rochell Ermitanio, Bryan T. Demapan, Maria Agnes Constante, Louvelle G. Borja, Alexis P. Cabrera, Jolene S. Aguon, and Nadia DLG Benjamin were named recipients of the much coveted scholarship awards.

PSS has received allocation for 15 scholars under the U.S. Department of Education. However, according to Education Commissioner David Borja, "a number of qualified applicants far exceeded the 15 scholarships" the US DOE has made available each year to the PSS.

Each recipient is entitled to $1,500 for up to four years, subject to continued federal funding and the graduate's academic success in college.

Moreover, scholars may also qualify for up to $6,000 each, or a minimum in additional scholarship assistance.

The recipients were chosen by a designated committee that judged the applicants based on an essay, constituting 30 percent of the total scholarship decision (30 points maximum).

A student's grade point average comprises 50 percent of the total scholarship decision. Furthermore, aspiring scholars also have to produce two recommendation letters, making up 20 percent of the scholarship decision.

Borja said the CNMI needs the expertise that each of the scholars will acquire when they complete their studies.

"It is for that reason that the PSS urges each of these 15 scholars to be diligent in their studies and to come home and share your knowledge and practice the skills you have acquired once you graduate," Borja said.

Borja commended the Byrd scholars for their excellent efforts and their parents for being role models for the entire community to emulate.

He is encouraging this school year's junior students and their parents to start thinking now about scholarship opportunities such as the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship.

Father's Day Specials

Brunch Buffet from 10:30-2:00—$25.00 for adults, $15 for children under 12.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 08-016
NMC Network Infrastructure Upgrades

The Northern Marianas College Bookstore is soliciting competitive sealed proposals upgrading of existing computer network infrastructure. Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Monday thru Friday between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Proposal Packages are due no later than 4:00 p.m., June 24th, 2008, Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950.
In accordance with CNMI Public Law 15-95 and 15-118, **"Local Preference"** does not apply and may not be submitted for this procurement. This procurement is wholly or partially funded from federal sources.

For Proposers located outside of the CNMI: You may request a copy of the RFP via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Duane R.T. Sablan (duanes@nmcnet.edu), or call NMC Procurement Office at (670) 234-5498 extensions 2300/01/02.

All Proposers are hereby notified that the Northern Marianas College will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement; all individuals, and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

/s/ Duane R.T. Sablan
Acting, NMC Procurement Officer

/s/ Adrian Atalig
Director, Information Technology

DOI's Domenech, Pula check out Pagan

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

U.S. Department of the Interior officials are on island to meet with the local government on energy, security, and health issues.

The group, led by Doug Domenech, the acting deputy assistant secretary for insular affairs, will follow a full schedule until they head back to Guam this afternoon.

Domenech, who also serves as deputy chief of staff for Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, is traveling with Nikolao Pula, director of the Office of Insular Affairs, Tim Petty, DOI deputy assistant secretary for water and science, Tom Murray, senior research scientist at the U.S. Geological Survey, and Larry Broun, emergency coordinator at DOI.

Jeff Schorr, OIA's field representative on Saipan, said the group flew to Pagan yesterday. One of the islands north of Saipan, Pagan is the proposed site for a geothermal power plant. OIA recently approved a $220,000 grant for the project.

Today, the team will meet with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to discuss federal funding and various other issues, which may include the U.S. government's imminent takeover of local immigration control.

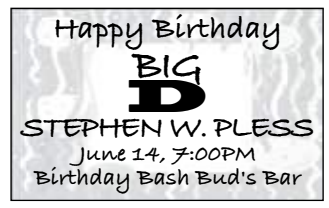
The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will brief the federal officials on the power crisis.

Broun will meet with the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Commonwealth Ports Authority. Petty has a meeting with the Water Task Force. Murray will meet with the Emergency Management Office on the proposed volcano monitoring system for the Northern Islands.

Healthcare issues will be on the agenda when Pula meets with Public Health Secretary Kevin Villagomez.

The team last week accompanied Janet W. Creighton, the recently appointed deputy assistant to President Bush and director of intergovernmental affairs, on her first visit to Guam. Creighton and the Interior Department officials met with Gov. Felix Camacho and other Guam officials to discuss the planned military in the territory and the rest of the region.

The multipurpose trip "demonstrates Interior Secretary Kempthorne's continued support and focus on a variety of island issues," Pula had said.



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Alien workers to hold welcome rally for visiting federal officials

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An organization of alien workers will spearhead a rally today at the American Memorial Park to welcome visiting federal officials on the island.

Human Dignity Movement president Jerry Custodio told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they are inviting all foreign workers of different nationalities to attend the welcome rally, which will begin at 10am.

"We will ask the federal officials for fair protection and treatment, justice to long-term workers, payment of unpaid wages in Labor administrative orders and for improved immigration status," Custodio said.

He said their group will be supported by the Coalition of United Workers (NMI) led by Irene Tantiado.

Custodio said they are planning to march near Hyatt Regency Hotel where Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Doug Domenech is reportedly staying.

He said they are hoping that Domenech or any other federal officials will talk to them so they could hand over their petition for improved immigration status and show them documents regarding the $6.1 million in unpaid wages and damages owed hundreds of alien workers.

Custodio said they will disperse at 8pm.

Pete A. Tenorio, CNMI's resident representative to Washington D.C., earlier disclosed that federal officials will visit the Commonwealth this week for the initial talks on the U.S. government's takeover of local immigration control.

Tenorio said a team of officials from the U.S. departments of Homeland Security and Labor is expected to meet with the Fitial administration, the Legislature, and the business community regarding the new immigration law.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial also announced last week that Department of the Interior officials, including Domenech and Office of Insular Affairs Director Nikolao Pula, will be here this week.

Man gets 4-day prison sentence for beating GF

The Superior Court has imposed a four-day jail term on a man who beat up his girlfriend in the presence of her children.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Sofiul Alam to one year in prison, all suspended except for four days, for assault and battery.

Wiseman gave the 36-year-old Alam credit for the time he has already served in jail.

Alam was placed on one-year probation and required to perform 60 hours of community service.

Alam was also required to write a letter of apology to the victim and pay a $200 fine, $25 assessment fee, plus probation fee.

During the probation period, the defendant is prohibited from consuming or possessing alcohol or narcotics substances.

The Attorney General's Office charged Alam with assault and battery, and interfering with a domestic violence report.

He and his lawyer, assistant public defender Janet King, entered a plea agreement with the government, represented by assistant attorney general Rebecca Warfield.

Alam pleaded guilty to assault and battery. The other charge was dismissed.

The plea agreement stated that on Sept. 17, 2007, the defendant beat up his girlfriend by pulling her hair and pushing her to the ground in the presence of her children.

A police officer stated in her report that the victim called police to report the beating in the presence of her children at her residence in Koblerville.

The victim said Alam arrived home drunk and started shouting at her. During their argument, the defendant pushed the victim against the wall, pulled her hair and then pushed her to the ground.

When Alam was about to choke her, she managed to push him away. While she was trying to call the police on the phone, the defendant pulled the telephone away.

She told police it was not the first time that Alam beat her up. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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MVA eyes sinking ship off Lau Lau Bay

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Divers on Saipan and the island's tourism office are in the early stages of a plan to sink a ship off Lau Lau Bay to create a new site for SCUBA enthusiasts.

The plan to sink the *Charito*, a 97-foot vessel that washed ashore on Saipan almost 10 years ago, could provide an added attraction to the already popular dive site, according to Perry Tenorio, managing director of the Marianas Visitor Authority. Several key details, however, including the cost of the venture, still have to be resolved, he said.

Sinking the *Charito* would create a gathering point for aquatic life and could later help create new coral, according to local diver Douglas Brennan. Ultimately, the plan could bolster the island's SCUBA tourism sector, he said.

To accomplish this, proponents of the plan say, the *Charito* will have to be towed to the site, outside the bay's natural coral reef, and submerged in a "controlled sink" that may involve cutting holes in the vessel's hull. The U.S. Navy salvage and repair ship *Safeguard* may aid in the operation, Brennan said.

The plan comes after several similar projects worldwide, including two on the island of Rota, where a pair of vessels once used for smuggling became underwater attractions. Weather permitting, Brennan said, supporters of the plan hope to have it completed in April or May of next year.

However, Brennan and Tenorio both noted some serious obstacles that the plan faces. The *Charito* will have to be cleaned to meet Coast Guard and EPA standards for such projects, a process that will also include the removal of any hazardous materials or other potential pollutants. An analysis will have to be completed on the environmental impacts of the plan and whether rough waves could roll the ship up onto the nearby shore. Also, the costs of the plan remain to be considered.

Nevertheless, local divers appear enthusiastic about the idea. Hitoshi Yamaguchi, vice president of Marianas Sports Club, which organizes dives in Lau Lau Bay, says a new wreck in the area would prove "good for tourism" by giving visitors "something new to explore" and a reason to revisit the site.

An early analysis of the plan, according to Brennan, shows that it could generate millions of dollars a year for the dive tourism industry on Saipan. The MVA has agreed to apply for the necessary government approval for the project, sources say, but has yet to submit any formal proposal.

Proposal to ease rules for claiming disability retirement benefits nixed

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has vetoed a bill that sought to ease the application process for claiming disability retirement benefits.

Fitial said the lenient process proposed by the legislation would expose the NMI Retirement Fund to abuses.

"While I commend the Legislature for continuously seeking channels to protect and serve the rights of disabled retirees of the CNMI government, the legislation as presented for my consideration thwarts the original intent and language of the bill as introduced," he said in his veto message to the Legislature.

Currently, a person who wants to claim disability retirement benefits must be evaluated by two physicians and a vocational rehabilitation counselor, and get certification that he or she is totally and permanently disabled due to physical or mental incapacitation.

The bill, as originally introduced in the House of Representatives, proposed to amend this by requiring only one physician. That physician, however, has to be a specialist in the area of the disability being evaluated.

But the bill, as the Legislature eventually passed it, removed the amendment to require one specialist, as well as the requirement to be certified by a vocational rehabilitation counselor.

"It removed an important safeguard in certifying a claimant as totally and permanently disabled," the governor said. "A vocational rehabilitation counselor's certification is important, because considering the nature of his or her profession, to rehabilitate persons, if he or she certifies a person as totally and permanently disabled, it is credible evidence of a true disability."

Proponents of the bill have said the current requirements are too difficult to meet, and that the two-physician requirement is enough to protect against abuses and fraud.

They have argued that counselors at the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation lack medical and psychiatric expertise or credentials to issue disability certifications. And this situation has created a hardship for OVR, for the retirees, and for the Retirement Fund.

"This legal requirement of OVR counselors places the office in the untenable situation of either requiring counselors to make judgments that are beyond the scope of their training, or not complying with the law. Both courses of action could be detrimental to retirees and or to the Retirement Fund," states the bill.

LIBADAY FANS JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Hundreds of Saipan residents fall in line to purchase a ticket for the rides during the grand opening of the 62nd Liberation Day celebration Friday night at the Garapan Fishing Base. The month-long celebration will feature cultural presentations, food, crafts, local bands and musicians.

BELL

From Page 1

cort and no knowledge of the tides and surf.

He left Tinian at 6am and waded ashore on the beach of Coral Ocean Point Resort in Koblerville at 10:30am, completing the swim in four and a half hours. He had expected the crossing to take eight hours. His previous effort took 12 hours.

"Maybe I'm getting better," said Bell.

Nature, he added, made his crossing a little easier. He had prepared to swim against a strong east-to-west current. But he found the current flowing in the reverse direction, carrying him ever closer to his destination.

Even the jellyfish, which had been his other worry, proved to be nothing but a mild annoyance. He got minor jellyfish stings during the swim.

"Everything has turned out very well. I'm very happy. I've been thinking about doing this for a long time. It's nice to do it and get it done," he said.

As for his next goal to cross the Torres Strait from Papua New Guinea to the Australian mainland, he said, "I'm too beat to think about it right now. That one is going to take a while, and the conditions have to be right. My plan is to play it by ear."

In July 1981, Bell marked his retirement from the U.S. Navy by swimming alone from Saipan to Tinian. He spent most Saturdays of 1980 swimming around the island of Guam's 120-mile shoreline.

Bell resides in Boulder, Colorado.

UNIDENTIFIED

From Page 1

woman was discovered north of the intersection at 11700 block of Pierce St. in Lake View Terrace. The area is composed of vacant fields and small foothills, he said.

He related that Dr. Dean Wisely's autopsy on the unidentified remains ascribed the death to be "undetermined."

Despite this, Jackson said that foul play was suspected due to the remote location where the body was found and the absence of any personal effects nearby.

The detective said that in January 1984, the Japanese's weekly magazine *Bungei Shinjo* broke the story that Miura was involved in a plot to murder his wife Kazumi.

Jackson said the release of the article prompted the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department to become actively involved in the investigation, along with the Los Angeles Police Department.

After the release of the article, Jackson said a Mrs. Kyoko Baker contacted the Asian Task Force of the L.A.P.D. Mrs. Baker informed Lt. J. Sakoda that her sister Shiraishi had been missing since March 1979. Mrs. Baker stated that her sister had a relationship with Miura prior to her disappearance.

Jackson said Immigration records indicate that Miura departed Tokyo on March 27, 1979 for a trip to L.A. Miura returned to Japan on April 6, 1979, records show.

Jackson said that investigation by the Tokyo Metropolitan Police revealed that Miura made six separate withdrawals from Shiraishi's bank account between May 19 to June 12, 1979.

Shiraishi's account was at the Mitsubishi Bank, Tokyo Shibuya Branch. The grand total in dollars was approximately $20,000, Jackson said. He said the withdrawals were accomplished with the use of a Bank Versateller card.

Jackson said that on March 27, 1984, L.A.P.D. received dental X-rays of Shiraishi from the National Japanese Police Agency. He said the X-rays were examined by Dr. Vale of the Los Angeles Country Coroner's Office.

Jackson said it was Dr. Vale's opinion that the skeletal remains found on May 4, 1979, were in fact the remains of Shiraishi.

Jackson said a manager of a condo unit in Minato-Ku-Tokyo told Tokyo police that on June 16, 1978, he met Miura and Shiraishi for the completion of a rental agreement for a condo unit, No. 513.

When the manager noticed that Shiraishi was no longer there, he asked Miura regarding her whereabouts. Miura told the manager that Shiraishi's parents have been taken ill and she had left to take care for them.

After a few days, the manager observed Miura dumping several paper trash bags into a dumpster. The manager inspected the bags and found them containing women's clothing and cosmetics.

A few days after, the manager saw Kazumi at the condo so he asked her where was she going. Kazumi stated she was going to Unit No. 513.

Miura moved out of the condo on July 8, 1979 and told the manager he was getting married and that the condo was too small.

The manager never saw Shiraishi again, Jackson said.

Miura then married Kazumi who, on Nov. 18, 1981, was shot in the head at a parking lot in L.A. She never regained consciousness and died on Nov. 30, 1982 in Japan.

L.A. detectives then found out that Miura, as Kazumi's insurance beneficiary, collected a total of 162,046,955 yen ($700,000) after her death.

Miura, 60, was arrested by Saipan authorities at the Saipan International Airport on Feb. 22 in connection with the 1981 murder of Kazumi.

Miura had already been convicted in Japan in 1994 of the crime. The verdict, however, was overturned by Japan's high court 10 years ago.

STUDY

From Page 1

says the proposal will bring approximately 8,000 new tourists to the Commonwealth each year and create 400 new jobs. Moreover, it estimates the plan will result in $333 million in economic benefits to region over the next several years.

"I hope this dispels some misinformation going around," said Pew staff member Angelo Villagomez. "It's unfortunate that inaccurate, uninformed statements being made by some decision-makers will only encourage federal officials to dismiss our legitimate concerns and needs."

The final analysis has yet to be released, yet excerpts given exclusively to the *Saipan Tribune* on Monday show that the economic boost the monument could provide will be primarily focused on Saipan, with some also reaching nearby Tinian and Rota.

Benefits of the monument would include an annual federal contribution to the site, added media attention for the area, increases in tourism, visits by research scientists, and an influx of funding from other federal government programs and non-profit groups, the report says.

"The economic benefits to the CNMI have a wide range of possibilities and are dependent on the ability of the relevant institutions to make the most of the prospect," the study explains, adding the Mariana Visitors Authority could consider "the re-branding of the CNMI, or the need to promote outside of traditional market segments to maximize the tourism potential."

To capitalize on economic growth that the monument could provide, local government officials will want to ensure a place at the table in the co-management scheme created for regulating it, the report notes.

"The executive and legislative branches would need to see what resources they could devote to leveraging this status into economic opportunities for local people—the staff who could earn federal salaries and benefits, the bus drivers and tour operators who would bring both tourists and local school children to the educational displays at the visitors center, the support staff and new tourism businesses that would cater to the research scientists and high-end tourists, and so forth," the analysis says.

Yet the full scale of the benefits seen in the region would depend on the ability of federal and local governments and the tourism sector to take advantage of the new monument, it adds.

"This is good news for the Commonwealth, and an important step forward for the long term sustainability of our tourism industry," said David M. Sablan, president of Century Tours and Travel. "There's no doubt in my mind that the fastest impact to help improve our economy is to create additional reasons for Japanese and other visitors to continue to come here, as this will bring in much-needed tourist numbers and the dollars they will spend on our islands. There is ample evidence that the worldwide demand for ecotourism is growing, and businesses would love to have a national monument designation to bring like-minded visitors from Japan and around the globe as well."

Dr. Iverson will give further detail the results of his study at a Rotary Club meeting on June 17.

SHEFA defends itself from OPA critique

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The administrators of a municipal scholarship program, who have been accused of misusing public funds, say the agency has been responsible in managing its funds.

The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance board of directors, in the first two installments of its three-part response to the Office of the Public Auditor's review of the program, said the program had kept a balanced budget since SHEFA was created in 2004.

The SHEFA board based its claim on its own "objective" analysis of the program.

"Indeed, the SHEFA board is touted a model in fiscal restraint, operating in a fiscally conservative manner," the board said.

The group said the agency's financial records show the SHEFA board has not availed of "publicly financed lavishes and government financed perks" such as off-island trips, new vehicles, cellular phones, and state-of-the art office equipment.

Ninety-seven percent of SHEFA's budget is used for the benefit of the scholars, the board said. It added that the program has helped over 100 scholars, who have graduated from colleges and universities on Saipan and elsewhere in the United States.

The SHEFA board also said the agency has awarded over $5 million in scholarship grants to Saipan students, while spending under $9,000 in board compensation from 2004 to 2006. During the same period, the board said, the board was paid a monthly average of $250. The members each got below $50 a month for attending board meetings or work session, and were not paid for outreach activities, appeal hearings, and meetings with other government agencies.

The SHEFA board also defended its practice of hiring contractors, instead of keeping civil service employees.

"Given this climate of uncertainty and unpredictability, it is most imprudent to hire full-time staff during the formative period of program development. Besides, operation funds are inadequate to attract or recruit an individual best qualified to operate a new and evolving approach," said the board.

OPA's allegation about the contractors' seemingly repetitive tasks was explained in these terms: "[What] appears at first blush to be unmeritorious engagement in seemingly duplicative and repetitive task orders would, upon closer scrutiny, prevail as a necessary antecedent in facilitating program growth, development, renewal and expansion in order that SHEFA becomes viable and a sustainable program, just as any new and emerging program would require, no matter the modality of delivery—whether performed or ascribed by negotiated deliverables by the governing board or by prescriptive and ministerial list of position description assigned a civil servant, the latter proposition ill advised given the uncertain beginning of and externally induced instability sown into the program, not to mention the external tinkering with SHEFA has been subjected to since 2006 to this day as in the extant case."

In a report last April, OPA said SHEFA had misused public funds through questionable hiring and improper payments to board members. OPA's review showed the agency had hired contractors without following procurement regulations. Both contractors were CNMI government retirees and may have been "double dipping," or receiving both salary and pension benefits. The two also seemed to be doing the same job, OPA said.

OPA also found inadequate documentation to support the payments made to some SHEFA board members. Some board members were compensated for work other than board meetings, and the board did not comply with the Boards and Commissions Reform Act of 2006.

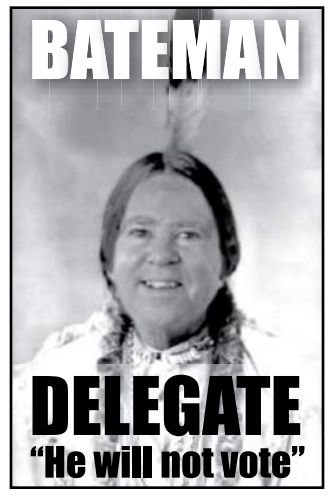
OPA urged the Saipan and Northern Legislative Delegation to work with House and Senate members on how SHEFA and the CNMI Scholarship Office could be merged, without getting rid of the separate financial aid program for Saipan students.

Saipan Local Law 13-21, which established SHEFA, initially provided a continuous yearly appropriation of $1.2 million from Saipan poker license fees. This funding was allotted in fiscal years 2004 and 2005.

In October 2004, an additional $150,000 was appropriated for the program's operational costs. The money was intended to cover operational expenses starting FY2004 until fully used. In the same month, an additional $1.2 million was appropriated for the "Saipan local scholarship account."

In October 2005, a Saipan local law increased the continuous yearly appropriation for the scholarship fund from $1.2 million to $3 million, and provided a non-lapsing yearly appropriation of $200,000 for SHEFA's operational costs.

From FY2004 to FY2006, SHEFA received total allotments of $5.83 million, of which $5.57 million went to financial assistance and over $250,000 went to operations (mostly personnel).



Shirley's to go non-smoking

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Smokers will have two fewer spots to light up next week as Shirley's Coffee Shop is poised to ban the habit at its two locations.

The ban comes as local lawmakers are weighing the prospect of a full ban on smoking in the Commonwealth's restaurants, a move that is already proving highly controversial. Yet although the ban may rile some customers at Shirley's, manager Susan Macario says it will safeguard the health of staff and the diners' clientele against secondhand smoke.

"We want to support cleaner indoor air, not just for the customers, but for our own protection too," she said.

A recent survey on the pending ban conducted in the restaurant saw some "negative comments" from customers but "we're hopeful that people will understand," she added.

The ban is "unfair," according to one unnamed smoker outside the Shirley's location in Garapan. "It's the kind of place where you want to drink your coffee and, yeah, smoke," he said.

Meanwhile, Rep. Ralph DLG Torres (R-Saipan), chairman of the House Health Education and Welfare Committee, is preparing for a series of further hearings on legislation that will ban smoking in restaurants, the Smoke Free Air Act of 2008, H.B. 16-47.

In an interview Monday, Torres said the prospective ban will "only benefit people" by "promoting healthier conditions" in restaurants, but added that whether lawmakers will pursue the ban largely depends on the feedback they receive through comments and testimony at the hearing.

"I like the idea, but it's up to the people who testify" to decide how far the bill will go, he said.

In addition to the hearings—slated for June 13 and 16—Torres is asking local businesses that have already banned smoking to report on whether it has affected business.

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Local hospital benefits from shower of donations

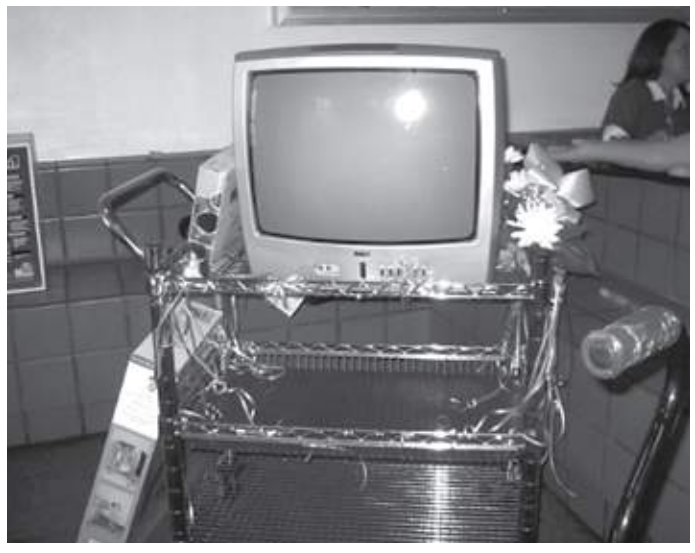
By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center recently received a donation of necessary supplies from various individuals and organizations for different departments at the hospital.

On hand to receive the much needed supplies were Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, Deputy Secretary of Hospital Administration Joseph C. Santos and Deputy Secretary Lynn Tenorio.

The equipment donations, made through the CHC Volunteers Association, included a television set from Dr. Vincent Stravino, two blood sugar monitors for the emergency room, one printer/scanner/fax machine from the National Office Supply, two ink cartridges for the printers in Pediatrics, an instamatic camera and film for Labor & Delivery, a medical scale for Labor & Delivery, 12 wheelchairs, four quad canes for Physical Therapy, wheelchair oxygen carrier for the emergency room, IV stand for hemodialysis, and a graduate, which is a small measuring container used in the hospital laboratory.

According to CHC Volunteers president Kim Prinz-Coats, the wheelchairs were distributed to the operating room, emergency room, C-Side, women's clinic and the hemodialysis clinic.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The television set donated by Dr. Vincent Stravino.

She acknowledged the tireless efforts of Mr. and Mrs. John Schwarz, who worked with the Your Special Needs Store in Lafayette, Indiana, to find the right wheelchairs to fit local needs.

The storeowners themselves where the wheelchairs were bought, Mr. & Mrs. Santiemmo, donated the quad canes, the oxygen tank carrier, and the graduate.

Long-time Okinawan visitor to the CNMI and chairman of the Marianas Repatriation Association Choken Ginoza also donated $500 for the purchase of a cannulating arm tool that would help train nurses on how to insert a fisula on a patient's arms for dialysis treatment.

The CHC Volunteers, a nonprofit organization that makes about $100,000 a year, also donated a DVD player and a cart to the Obstetrician Gynecology department.

Over the years, CHC Volunteers has donated over $2 million worth of equipment to the hospital.

According to Prinz-Coats, "We're all about raising money to purchase equipment for the hospital. And everything we do here is for the hospital."

"It's money that can be used to purchase equipment for the hospital that everyone in the community can benefit from. No matter the race, creed, religion, or color-everyone benefits from that," she added.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The wheelchairs that the CHC Volunteers Association donated to the hospital.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hospital staff and officials and members of the CHC Volunteers Association pose with Choken Ginoza, chairman of the Marianas Repatriation Association, after presenting him with a certificate of appreciation for his donation of $500 to the association.

The cannulating arm tool that would help train nurses on how to insert a fisula on a patient's arms for dialysis treatment.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

10 CNMI students take part in JCI trip to Korea

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela accompanied 10 students from the CNMI for a four-day cultural exchange trip to South Korea last week.

The CNMI delegates of the 16th Annual CNMI Students Cultural Exchange Program, which was under the sponsorship of the Junior Chamber International Pacific Saipan Inc., visited a number of places and met up with a handsome number of Korean officials.

During their first day, the CNMI delegates made a memorable visit to the Busan Tower, which soars up 120 meters high on a 69-meter high hilltop. The Busan Tower gives a bird's eye view of the entire city of Busan.

Other exciting visits included a first-time visit to Daegu University and the Daegu School for the Blind, the Busan Cooperative Fish Market, which is the largest fish market in South Korea, the Hyundai Motor Company Plant in Ulsan, said to be the world's single largest automobile plant in the world, the Royal Tomb of King Michu of the Silla Period, the Pohang Steel Manufacturing Co., and other various historical and educational sites.

During their visit, the CNMI delegates were also treated to Korean pro baseball where they watched the LG Twins versus the Samsung Lions at the Jamsil Baseball Stadium, next door to the Seoul Olympic Stadium.

For many of the students, it was a first visit to the country and a very memorable one. A majority shared that it was an experience they would never forget.

JCI member Jae Yong Kim, who met up with the CNMI delegates on the first day at the new Kimhae International Airport in Pusan, said the cultural exchange program aims to improve the friendship ties between Korea and the Northern Marianas.

"Through this, CNMI residents and Korea will build a stronger relationship and better ties with each other. This will enable them to understand each other's culture and build goodwill," Kim said.

Other members of the delegation include two chaperones from the Mayor's Office and the media.

RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN

Members of the 16th Annual CNMI Students Cultural Exchange Program delegation pose with Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela and Junior Chamber International Pacific Saipan Inc. officials at the new Kimhae International Airport in Pusan after arriving in South Korea.

AFTER FINDING VAST HUMAN REMAINS, CULTURAL ARTIFACTS

New site sought for marine research facility

Recognizing the need to preserve culturally-sensitive and historically-significant archeological sites, the Northern Marianas College recently opted to find an alternate site for its proposed classroom and research facility after determining that the original site in Pau Pau contained rich deposits of ancient human remains and cultural artifacts.

NMC had earlier proposed to expand and renovate an existing concrete structure located at Pau Pau Beach Site and use it for a Marine Science Research Center that would house a classroom, laboratory, and meeting space facilities.

"We are still very much committed to developing a world-class research facility equipped with the latest technology where our students and faculty can learn and make important contributions to marine research," said NMC [resident Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

"To this end, we are grateful to the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. and the Minority Science and Engineering Improvement Program for their continued financial support and assistance," Fernandez added.

Initial inspections of cultural deposits at the Pau Pau site several years ago led to the discovery of some stone and shell artifacts, a dense gastropod stratum and some bits of human remains. The preliminary findings prompted a more comprehensive excavation, a project led by an archeological team that included Jennifer McKinnon, Ph.D., Jason Raupp, and Toni Massey.

Within a short period of beginning the archaeological work, the team, assisted by volunteers from the community and NMC, uncovered the human remains of a complete burial. Additional complete human burials were discovered shortly afterwards. Due to the amount of material and the depth of the cultural deposits being discovered in nearly every excavation, the archaeological team concluded that the site is a significant indigenous archaeological site.

McKinnon, archaeological team leader and Technical Officer for Maritime Archaeology for Flinders University, South Australia, indicated that the discovery was the richest archaeological site she had ever encountered. Her extensive archaeological resume spans 15 years and includes field experience in various U.S. states, Ghana, and Australia.

Other artifacts recently discovered included human teeth, probably human bone, sling stones, plainware and redware ceramics, shell adzes, bone artifacts, shell beads, lithic debitage (chert, slate, basalt, jasper), and shell.

In the preliminary report submitted by the archaeological team, the site is identified as an indigenous period multi-component site with both Latte and pre-Latte periods and contains remains consisting primarily of a portion of a Latte and pre-Latte period (up to 3,000 years ago), including other possible human burial(s). ***(NMC)***

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Students listen to IBPC vice president Vincent Cruz Marfalen during the first day of a three-day placement and workshop for the 2008 Summer Youth Employment & Training Program at the American Memorial Park Visitor's Center yesterday. About 420 students will work in part-time or summer jobs under the Workforce Investment Agency.

420 students sign up for WIA summer program

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Workforce Investment Agency began its weeklong 2008 Summer Youth Employment and Training Program yesterday at the American Memorial Park for 420 CNMI students who have signed up for summer jobs.

A majority of the students who were scheduled to attend their employment and training yesterday showed up to learn more about the jobs they are assigned for the summer.

The students were oriented on the WIA summer youth program, given a presentation on job safety by Richard Hamilton of the U.S. Department of Labor, and received basic training from the International Business and Professional College.

WIA will be farming out the students to various government and private agencies on Saipan. Some of the agencies include divisions of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, the Public School System, the Department of Public Health, Department of Public Works, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Northern Marianas College, Joeten Enterprise, Duty Free Shoppers, Coral Ocean Point, Aqua Resort and a number of others.

Students referred to DPW will be assigned as office clerks, construction inspectors, computer operators, carpenters, office aides and others.

Students referred to DLNR will take part in projects including reforestation of the Marpi forest, uprooting and clearing the tangle of scarlet gourd vines from trees, planting mango orchards, beautification of parks and scenic locations, and improving trails and camp sites.

Students based at DCCA will complement the Summer Youth Camp headed by the department.

WIA Executive Director Edith E. Deleon Guerrero said this year marks another exciting year for the students in the youth program and hopes that's this year's employment and training opportunity will give them the necessary knowledge and skills that will assist the students in becoming a "positive contributing citizen, both socially and economically, within our small island community."

She further encourages the students to do their best and learn from their trainers the necessary work skills "that will pave the way for your success in your future career and employment plans."

After a successful completion of the employment and training program, students will finally begin work on June 16 until July 25, 2008.

According to WIA, all summer participants are required to attend their assigned workshop training.

OPA obtains highest rating in third consecutive peer review

The CNMI Office of the Public Auditor received the highest possible rating in its recent external quality control peer review. The Association of Pacific Islands Public Auditors peer review team comprised of the Republic of Palau Public Auditor Satrunino Tewid, FSM Audit Supervisor Michael Henry, and technical consultant Charles W. Hester commended OPA for exemplifying "the highest standards of the auditing profession."

Sablan

The peer review team tested OPA's adherence to *Government Auditing Standards* promulgated by the Comptroller General of the Unites States. OPA has undergone three peer reviews since Public Auditor Michael Sablan assumed his position. All three reviews resulted in the same highest rating of full compliance with *Government Auditing Standards*. The review covered OPA's audits and attestation engagements during the period from Oct. 1, 2004 through Sept. 30, 2007.

Sablan credits OPA's continued high marks to the hard work and professionalism of his staff. This achievement is a "reflection of their commitment to auditing standards and the office," Sablan said. "As I leave OPA, I am confident that the office is well positioned to fulfill all of its mandates in accordance with highest standards of the profession." Sablan resigned his post effective this July.

The Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs provided special funding to cover the costs of the CNMI OPA peer review. In accordance with APIPA guidelines, a copy of the peer review report was provided to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Senate President Pete P. Reyes, and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios.

OPA will host the 19th annual APIPA conference on Saipan in July. The conference offers the opportunity for interested individuals to learn about government auditing standards among other topics. For more information, visit the APIPA conference website at www.apipa2008.org. ***(OPA)***

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/s/ JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ
Secretary of Health
/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

ALE SECURITY LOCKS

24-7 solution just a call away

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Locked yourself out of your car with the engine still running? Lost your house keys during a weekend picnic at the American Memorial Park?

Not to worry. Lauvale "Ale" Iakopo and his new company, Ale Security Locks, is only a phone call away from solving your locked out and keyless problems.

"I do duplicate keys, re-key cylinders for all types of locks. Open car doors. Change combinations in safes and make master keys for residential and commercial customers," said Iakopo. "My company is open 24-7. I can go to the resident's house and have their keys replaced on the spot. I can also go to where drivers have locked themselves out of their cars and open their cars on the spot."

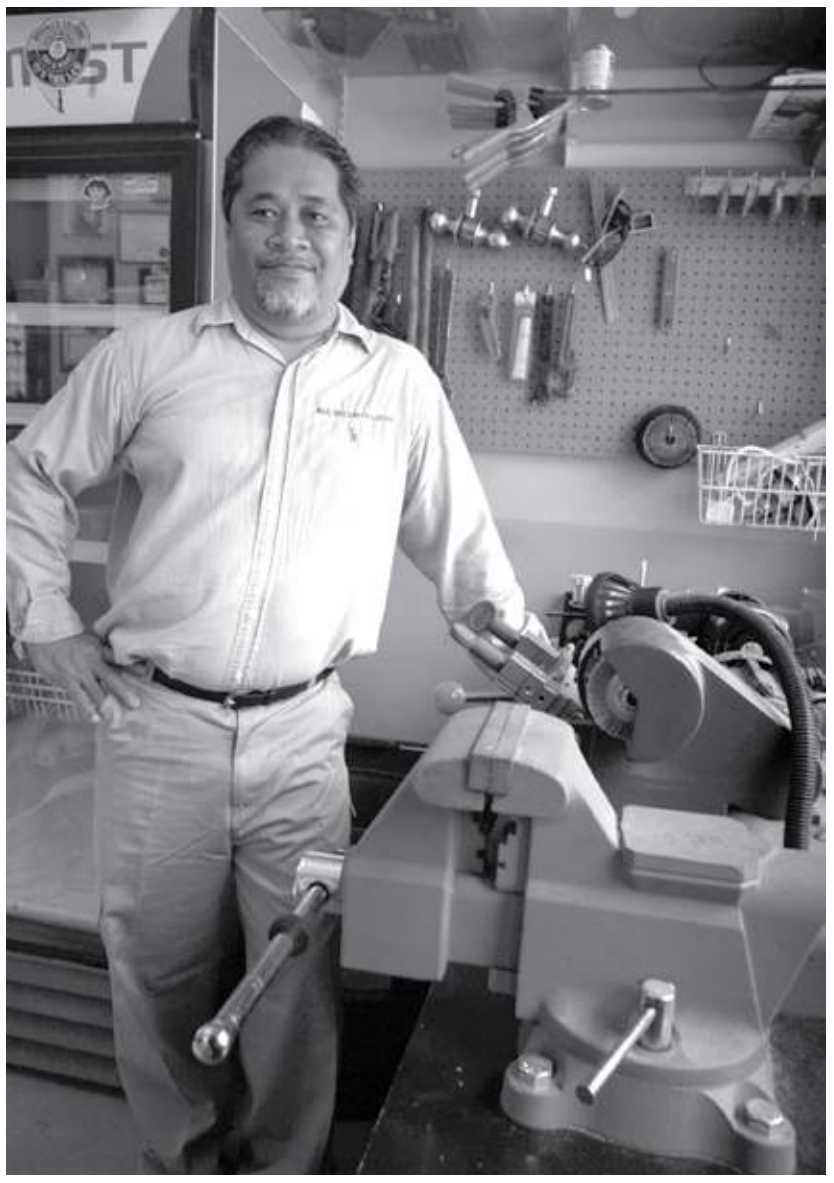
And with the ever-rising price of fuel, Iakopo said Ale Security Locks offers efficient service without having to require customers to drive to his place of business.

"Because I'm mobile (he has his equipment inside his truck) I can go to the businesses and the houses that need my services. They don't have to waste their gas and in the end they get to save more money," he said.

Asked why he opened Ale Security Locks, Iakopo answered that it's what he always loved to do.

"After doing this work for 19 years, I decided to open up my own business doing what I love to do which is being a locksmith. I have 30 years of security experience. Twenty-five years ago, I was first to install alarms and CCTV, and also build an armored car and run it. With all this experience I can offer security information that is needed," he said. "On top of that, the only thing I can say is that I can provide an honest and good service."

Iakopo's Ale Security Locks can be reached at 483-LOCK (5625).



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Lauvale "Ale" Iakopo poses inside his shop.

Saipan firm Pacific Subsea has new submarine captain

Jack McClure, Pacific Subsea vice president, right, congratulates the company's newest submarine pilot/captain, Alfred Matsunaga.

Pacific Subsea Saipan Inc., Saipan's largest marine tour operator, introduces the company's newest submarine pilot/captain, Alfred Matsunaga.

Matsunaga had just completed training, testing and licensing for his specially endorsed U.S. Coast Guard Masters License for submarine pilot.

According to Jack McClure, Pacific Subsea vice president, Matsunaga will join other licensed captains who serve aboard the Pacific Subsea fleet of passenger vessels.

The well-known Saipan submarine tour company has been in operation 20 years, accommodating over one million tourist guests on their various vessels.

Recently, in response to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's call to train and employ from the labor pool on Saipan, Subsea embarked on an in-house training program in conjunction with USCG toward that goal.

Individual training is accomplished "on the job" while serving as unlicensed crew working upwards aboard the sub and other vessels.

Requirements for licensing are set by USCG and the operator. Each pilot candidate must meet the standards of vessel master/captain and pass a special testing especially for this class of submersible.

"It generally takes one year to accumulate the required experience, sea time and pass the tests," said McClure. "We are pleased to add Alfred to our list of certified sub pilots." ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

June 10, 1999

Rota in water crisis
More than 1,500 residents of Songsong on Rota have been experiencing empty faucets in the past two days following a drastic drop in the level of Water Cave, the island's major source of potable water, according to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. This is the second time the island has faced serious water crisis since last year when the cave fell to its lowest level due to the drought triggered by the El Nino weather phenomenon.

No new investment project since January
With the economy still reeling from the effects of Asia's financial crisis, the Coastal Resources Management did not receive any permit application for a major investment project in the Northern Marianas from January to May 1999.

RFP readied for cheaper water desalination plant
The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation will soon begin its search for cheaper technology under a new request for proposal (RFP) to push a long-stalled water desalination project for Saipan, officials said yesterday. Expected to be issued within the next few weeks, the new RFP will emphasize the cost of the project as the initial bid drew little support from residents and leaders for its expensive proposition.

June 10, 2002

A date with the Sun tomorrow
Astronomers and amateur eclipse chasers will troop to Tinian tomorrow to witness a rare celestial event—an annular solar eclipse that would be visible to most parts of the island, except at its northern tip. It was learned that the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino has been fully booked months in advance by people who want to witness this solar phenomenon, and it is anticipated that the first ferry schedule in the morning—12:15am and 3:30am—would be packed with tourists and kibitzers alike.

NMIRF investments drop to $345M
April snapped the two-month winning streak of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund's investment portfolio, posting a 1.45-percent drop in the portfolio's market value. From March's $350.18 million, the Fund's overseas investment lost out to the bear in April, dropping to $345.1 million, or a difference of $5.07 million, based on figures provided by Fund money manager Merrill Lynch.

Camacho vows to restore koban operation in Saipan
Public Safety Commissioner Edward C. Camacho vowed Friday to resurrect community policing on Saipan following the recent pullout of koban police officers stationed to man the streets of Western Garapan and the Kagman district. Camacho, during a press conference last week, promised to restore the ailing program with or without funding, as he explained that it was never a part of the plan to phase it out.

June 10, 2003

Wright wants ETC for priority projects
Northern Marianas College president Kenneth Wright prefers the use of educational tax credit money for the higher learning institution's priority projects. At the same time, Wright noted that there is no need to place ETC in a separate account, pointing out that this may only be used for unintended projects. "I don't sort out money in different pockets.I don't like that. I look at our overall budget."

Flexibility on SARS policy sought
The Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association is seeking a compromise under the Commonwealth government's self-imposed ban on the entry of persons from areas identified by the CNMI as SARS "hotspots," after the latest restrictions reaffirmed a local ban against travelers from Hong Kong and other Asian cities. Richard A. Pierce, SGMA executive director, stated, "We seek only reasonable relief as we fully support the CNMI Government's directives concerning this life threatening infection.

Pacific

Caribbean monk seal is confirmed extinct

Hawaiian, Mediterranean monk seals could be next

By JAYMES SONG
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HONOLULU (AP)—Federal officials have confirmed what biologists have long thought: The Caribbean monk seal has gone the way of the dodo.

Humans hunting the docile creatures for research, food and blubber left the population unsustainable, say biologists who warn that Hawaiian and Mediterranean monk seals could be the next to go.

The last confirmed sighting of a Caribbean monk seal was in 1952 between Jamaica and Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's Fisheries Service confirmed Friday that the species is extinct.

Kyle Baker, a biologist for NOAA's Fisheries Service southeast region, said the species is the only seal to become extinct from human causes.

The seals were first classified as endangered in 1967, and wildlife experts investigated several reported sightings over the past few decades. But officials determined they were other seal types.

The federal agency says there are fewer than 1,200 Hawaiian and 500 Mediterranean monk seals remaining, and their populations are declining.

"We hope we've learned from the extinction of Caribbean monk seals, and can provide stronger protection for their Hawaiian and Mediterranean relatives," Baker said.

The Hawaiian monk seal population, protected by NOAA, is declining at a rate of about 4 percent annually, according to NOAA. The agency predicts the population could fall below 1,000 in the next three to four years, placing the mammal among the world's most endangered marine species.

"When populations get very small, they become very unstable," Baker said. "They become more vulnerable to threats like disease and predation by sharks."

Vicki Cornish, a wildlife expert at the Ocean Conservancy, said the fate of the Caribbean monk seal is a "wake-up call" to protect the remaining seal populations.

"We must act now to reduce threats to existing monk seal populations before it's too late," she said. "These animals are important to the balance and health of the ocean. We can't afford to wait."

Monk seals are particularly sensitive to human disturbance. And the sea creatures have been losing their food supply and beaches, officials say.

"Once Hawaii, the Caribbean and the Mediterranean were teeming with fish, but these are areas under severe fishing pressure," Cornish said. "They'll eat almost anything - shellfish or finned fish - but their food supply is waning and they're in competition with man."

The Caribbean monk seal, first discovered during Christopher Columbus' second voyage in 1494, once had a population of more than 250,000. But they became easy game for hunters because they often rested, gave birth or nursed their pups on beaches.

From the 1700s to 1900s, the seals were killed mainly for their blubber, which was processed into oils, used for lubrication and coating the bottom of boats. Their skins were used for trunk linings, clothing, straps and bags.

The endangered Hawaiian monk seals face different types of challenges, including entanglement in marine debris, climate change and coastal development.

About 80 to 100 live in the main Hawaiian Islands and 1,100 in the largely uninhabited Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, a marine national monument.

Biologist Bud Antonelis said NOAA's Fisheries Service has developed a monk seal recovery plan for the Hawaiian monk seals.

"But we need continued support from organizations and the public if we are to have a chance at saving it from extinction," he said. "Time is running out."

As for the Caribbean monk seal, NOAA said it is working to have them removed from the endangered species list.

AP

A Hawaiian monk seal called Nuka, 18, pokes its head above the water, Monday, in this March 2, 1998 file photo, at the Waikiki Aquarium in Honolulu.

Bougainville president Kabui dead

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The president of the autonomous Papua New Guinea province of Bougainville, Joseph Kabui, who died over the weekend, has been praised by the Australian government as a man who pursued "peace by peaceful means".

Kabui, the first president of an autonomous Bougainville, died in hospital in Buka of a suspected heart attack.

Australia's Foreign Minister, Stephen Smith, said Kabui, who was 54, played a key role in restoring Bougainville to peace following bitter conflict on the island from 1989 to 1997.

Smith said Kabui had suffered ill health for some years but demonstrated his commitment and determination by continuing to serve as a community and political leader.

Recently, his administration had been facing mounting unrest over its decision to grant Invincible Resources, a Canadian company, 70 per cent access rights to the island province's vast mineral resources.

The deal sparked widespread concern among Bougainville landowners, politicians and citizens.

Japan to pay for $15M Tonga ferry

NUKUALOFA, Tonga (Matangi Tonga/PIR)—Tonga will have a new Olovaha inter-island ferry by March 2010, thanks to the Japanese government.

The Japanese Ambassador for Tonga, Masashi Namekawa, and Tonga's Minister for Foreign Affairs, Tu'a Taumoepeau-Tupou, signed an agreement for a Japanese Aid grant of $30 million pa'anga [US$14.7 million] on Wednesday, June 4, for the construction of a new inter-island vessel for Tonga, replacing the 26-year-old passengers ferry, MV *Olovaha*.

A press release from the Japanese Government said that the new vessel will be 53m long and 13.5m wide, and it will be capable of carrying 400 passengers and 400 tons of cargo.

The vessel will be equipped with two six-ton cranes, a modern navigation system, radio apparatus and cargo-handling equipments such as eight reefer containers, 54 dry containers, and two forklifts.

The inter-island ferry is a lifeline between the islands and the government wanting to replace the *Olovaha* in its Strategic Plan 8 made a request to Japan for its Grant Aid Cooperation for a new public service vessel.

The inter-island ferry service between Tonga's main island groups has been maintained by private ferry owners and the government, though the quality of the service desperately needs further improvement. The ferry service to the remote Niuatoputapu and Niuafo'ou remains poor, and these isolated islands could go two months without a ferry to bring in supplies from the main island of Tongatapu.

'Pacific should increase food production'

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—There is a call for Pacific countries and donors to reverse the declining investment in the agricultural sector in the face of volatile global food prices.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community or SPC told the UN Food Summit in Rome that an increased production of traditional staples such as taro, cassava, breadfruit and yams could help limit the impact of rising food prices for some Pacific countries.

The SPC's, Dr Mary Taylor, says some countries need to become more self reliant in their own food production.

She says in order for that to work, countries will need to place more importance on the agriculture sector and receive support.

"From the government sector, the private sector, us, from regional agencies, like SPC, you know supporting the national capacity to increase the production levels"

Dr Taylor says there are already numbers of countries in the region encouraging their locals to grow their own food.

Fiji fishing industry to lose millions

EU rules Fiji's fish exports below standards

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times/PIR)—About 4000 workers in the fish industry will be affected by the decision of the European Union to reject fish from Fiji.

Fiji will also lose millions of dollars annually and, according to industry players, they, their workers and families will be hardest hit.

Fiji Fish, which exports fish worth F$5million[US$3.3 million] annually to EU markets, said this stopped last month after the EU ruled Fiji's fish exports were below standards.

Company general manager Grahame Southwick said EU markets were important because they doubled orders each year.

"We made a lot of margin from the EU market. It was an expanding market," said Southwick.

Cutbacks in the domestic operation, he said, were another problem.

Southwick said the effects of the EU decision, which was gazetted last month, remained to be felt.

Southwick said Pacific Fishing Company Limited (PAFCO) also exported to the EU market and employed about 800 people.

In April, 10 United Kingdom-bound containers of canned fish products worth about $US500,000 (FJ $745.950), which belonged to PAFCO, were not accepted.

PAFCO chief operating officer Chandra Prakash would not comment yesterday. Attempts to Contact interim Fisheries Minister Joketani Cokanasiga and permanent secretary Dr Niumaia Tabunakawai were unsuccessful.

Solander Pacific Limited director David Lucas said the EU had warned the Fiji Government since 2003 but nothing was done.

"It will be difficult for the industry with the domestic industry already having its share of the problems," Lucas said.

The industry had said that the Fiji domestic fishing industry is under severe threat and already 60 workers have been sent home. The industry made a submission to the interim Government on the need to review the raft of punitive taxes, fees and duties being imposed only on the domestic section of the industry.

French Polynesia to replace airport slum

PAPEETE, Tahiti (Tahitipresse/PIR)—French Polynesia's Tong Sang government has chosen a local architect for a three-year, 850-million French Pacific franc (US$11.3 million/7.1-million-euro) project to replace the Hotuarea slum next to the single runway at the Tahiti-Faa'a Airport.

The slum that has built up over the years in Faa'a (2007 population 29,851), French Polynesia's most populated commune, has involved mostly outer-islanders moving to Tahiti. They have built basic facilities with no sanitation, and have installed electricity only within the past few years.

The result is a nine-hectare (22.2-acre) area, two hectares (4.9 acres) of which is located in the airport's security zone, according to a communiqué from the Solidarity and Housing Ministry.

The constraints imposed by airport security regulations as well as the unsafe living conditions created by the slum have led to a joint effort by the French state, the French Polynesia government and the Faa'a municipal government. All three have contributed funds towards building new lodgings, with work scheduled to begin early next year and end in 2011.

The new facilities will be divided up in two areas. One hundred new lodgings are to be built in the East Zone and 88 new lodgings are to be built in the West Zone. There will be housing for individual families and for several families.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Climate crash

When debate began in the Senate on the Climate Security Act last week, no one expected the bill would finally usher the United States into leadership on global warming. But failure came sooner than many expected: On Friday, Democrats failed to get the 60 votes needed to bring the legislation to the floor for a vote. Proponents of the landmark measure are crowing that the 54 votes (48 yes, six expressions of support by senators who couldn't be in the chamber for the vote) provided momentum for action to take place next year with a new Congress and a new president. We hope they're right.

For now, with gasoline costing more than $4 a gallon in many parts of the country, the mood on Capitol Hill for showing leadership on global warming is decidedly frosty. Senate Republicans derided the bill sponsored by Sens. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., Joseph I. Lieberman, I-Conn., and John W. Warner, R-Va., as an avenue to even higher energy costs for Americans. And they were right: This gets to a larger point we'll return to in a moment. Opponents also employed delaying tactics, such as having the 491-page bill read aloud, and offered poison-pill amendments designed to undermine the central and necessary purpose of the bill, which is to put a price on carbon through a cap-and-trade system.

Meanwhile, bill backers championed one particular provision that gave us pause. The language of "Title XIII: International Partnerships to Reduce Emissions and Adapt" had the sound of cooperation but was actually a hammer over the heads of fast-growing developing nations to institute comparable carbon-limiting regulations. If the United States already had laws addressing global warming, this posture might be understandable. But there are no such laws. And the measure's key subsection — "Promoting Fairness While Reducing Emissions" — was a piece of camouflaged protectionism that would have required importers of goods such as steel from countries such as China and India to pay special fees.

There is no cost-free way to combat global warming. The increase in the cost of carbon denounced by Republicans last week will have to take place. Both the Bush administration and Congress have done a poor job of telling Americans that reducing emissions will require a lot more effort than changing light bulbs and much more sacrifice than driving less. That must change. With Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Barack Obama, D-Ill., committed to making climate change a priority if elected president in November, the leadership that has been missing for nearly eight years may finally come from the White House.

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Backside candidacy

Who's on first?

To dispel some rumors about who is and who is not running for the soon to be hotly contested and unquestionably too highly paid non-voting Delegate seat, here is the list.

As of last week there were 10 people who had picked up a candidate's validation packet at the Election Commission Office. This is the necessary first step to tossing one's hat in the ring. Here they are:

- Greg Sablan
- Ray Yumal
- Pete Tenorio
- John Gonzalez
- Juan Lizama
- David Attao
- Luis Chrisostimo
- Paul Wm. Camacho
- Me
- Juan Guerrero

I think there will be plenty more where those came from.

We won't know until deadline day, Aug. 6, who has actually turned in their paperwork and voter petitions and will even be trying for validation. We won't know who has actually succeeded in being placed on the ballot until Sept. 20, which is the final day for the Election Commission to act on and validate nominating petitions and candidacy documents.

■■■

Draft David M. Sablan

Noted author and economist William Stewart has proposed David M. Sablan as the best candidate for the new post of non-voting Delegate to the U.S. Congress. Uncle Dave has a track record consisting of a highly successful business career coupled with 40 years of meaningful community service, and is one of the CNMI's brightest and most talented people. He has the moxie to recognize the crooks in D.C. and not be steam rollered by the politically powerful as would most of the other candidates currently interested in the job. So I tend to agree with Bill Stewart, Mr. Sablan would be the best man for the post.

Problem is: Why would he run? A successful election would probably result in a pay cut for him. His various business interests here would suffer in his absence. He is smart enough to see the futility in a lackey'ssecond banana position as a delegate without a vote. Where he now enjoys almost universal popularity, as a politician he would of necessity make a lot of enemies no matter what his actions were. For these reasons and many others, I don't think we could talk him into running. We could draft him, but he would probably be smart enough to head for Canada.

Sour Grapes

By BRUCE BATEMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman writes Sour Grapes when the moon is full and the mood strikes. Stay tuned for each exciting episode. "Yes, he is opinionated." Email: bbateman@pticom.com; Blog: http://saipanuvian.blogspot.com/

■■■

Pete Z

Pete A. Tenorio should change his middle initial to Z for Zorrie. As the flip-flop king, he should take on the correct identifying moniker. When elected he stood for CNMI self-governance and used to play golf with the pro-Commonwealth labor lobbyist, now-not-his-friend-anymore-so there, Jack Abramoff. When the political guard changed a while back he dumped all the above and jumped on the pro-federalist bandwagon. His price? A non-voting delegate seat outside in the hallway next to the bathroom of the U.S. Lower Congressional House is all it took. He didn't have the skills to get the seat on its, or his, own merits so he sold himself, his country and his constituents for it.

Now he wants to run for the office he sold us out to get. What ideology do you suppose he will switch to if we are foolish enough to elect him to not-vote for us in DC?

■■■

Yearning to be free

Certain freedoms are allowed children that just aren't available to the adult population. My son (aged three) likes to run outside sans clothing and sometimes cannot be persuaded to see the "civilizing influence" that wearing pants, as an example, confers upon him. Why Dad?

I'm not sure where he acquired the phrase 'naked butt butt" but acquire it he has. It aptly describes his favorite mode of dress. He has no time for embarrassment. He has no patience with convention. He has a direct and obvious self-interest position: it's cool and comfortable. Nothing needs to match anything else color wise. No pants leg to tangle in the bicycle chain. No fear of parental retribution if the shirt gets snagged on an inconveniently placed tree limb and rips.

I am a bit surprised that Mom's don't climb on this naked butt butt bandwagon. Think of the hours of laundry it would save if all the children just un-dressed for success. You don't need to iron an arm or a stomach. Collectively, jillions of hours could be saved just

See BACKSIDE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Asking for nothing and getting nothing

Based on recent articles in the papers about some local elected officials taking great pride in having opposed the national marine proposal, it is safe to assume that the soon-to-be elected representative to Washington D.C. will be the most well liked elected official in that city.

Although all members of the U.S House of Representatives are aware it is their duty to pass and reject laws on behalf of their constituent and for the benefit of the United States at large, most, if not all, focus their efforts, at least in part, on bringing federal projects to their district. "Bringing home the bacon," as the saying goes. When Newt Gingrich was the House speaker, his district in Georgia got more federal money than any other district. The Army Corps of Engineers built a lake there and his pals in real estate suddenly had waterfront property for sale. Rep. Don Young of Alaska brought home $940 million, which included a project to build a bridge from Ketchikan (pop. 8,000) to the island of Gravina (pop. 50), commonly referred to as the "bridge to nowhere."

Both Gingrich and Young became unpopular in some circles. The CNMI representative will never suffer in that way. Federal projects? Federal jobs? Federal money? "No," says he (or she), "we don't want them."

Imagine Californians saying, for example, we don't want a national park (or monument). We want to manage, let's say, Yosemite ourselves. We do not want federal jobs or restrictions or funding and we certainly don't want foreign tourism. Imagine them saying that it's okay if they can't police the area, and foreigners poach the animals and log the trees, as foreign commercial fishing interests can around the islands in the CNMI (so local control really just means being taken advantage of). Imagine Californians saying that's okay because someday some of them may want to hunt and log there, even though there are only a few who possibly could, just as now only a few boats in the CNMI can even get up to the proposed marine monument to fish. Imagine Californian hunters saying we don' want a protected breeding ground so we can hunt in nearby areas, as an ocean monument would provide for fishing. Imagine Californians saying we don't want tourist money and certainly don't want the federal government helping us get it and we do not want our natural resources protected. Who can imagine such a thing? Well, apparently those who represent the people of the CNMI can.

So while other members of the House of Representative in Washington D.C., including Samoa and Guam, will be screaming for a piece of the tax dollar pie and cutting deals and asking for the feds to do more in their little district, spend more, give more, the CNMI representative will evidently be asking for nothing and getting the same. But he may get invited to a lot of cool parties, so that's nice.

Fred Hovnaton
San Jose

Earth calling Paul…

Earth calling Paul Castro. Come in. Is your receiver on, Paul? Over...

Does Paul Castro's "fagaga-lated" tripe deserve a response? Probably not, but offering one more editorial bone for the sake of the dialogue seems innocuous.

Paul Castro's unbalanced biases and frequent unmeasured radical pronouncements are the subjects of some amusement among his peers. It's not difficult to understand why in the current environment of polarized political views concerning the U.S. exercising its prerogatives in the CNMI, that he's an ardent indigenous apologist. I sympathize with his angst. I'd be scared, too, if I were losing my grip on my self-control. I, on the other hand, am an admitted idealist, but not an unswerving apologist for the United States or for anyone else. The men who fought and won World War II, including my father, saved the world, literally, from fascism and the "Japanese peril." That's not to say no atrocities were committed. That's not to say the world was perfected by the WWII American and Allied victory. War of anyone's making is always an atrocity-generating phenomenon for fighters on all sides. Men of all persuasions are placed in untenable threatening environments in which friend and foe alike are often indistinguishable. In WWII many indigenous Marianas citizens, for understandable reasons, were Japanese collaborators. What I've said in previous writings stands in spite of the fact that realistic history notes that American policy sometimes errs. American democratic idealism, however, remains a noble set of notions.

I meet former U.S. Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey on July 4, 1976 in Minnesota. I asked him about the inequities in American social compact. He said, and I paraphrase, "The Constitution of the United States is noble promise made to the American people. It has yet to be entirely fulfilled, but we're working on it." I abide by the ideals of that document, realizing that Mr. Humphrey was correct in his assessment and in his projection.

Furthermore, no responsible historian equates the illegitimacy of the current war in Iraq with the imperative of fighting and winning World War II. Mr. Castro has lost his balance. He exaggerates, distorts and perverts the legitimate points I make by embellishing his myopic interpretation of history with hyperbolic histrionics.

Furthermore, uncomfortable for some as the facts may be, the marriage between the Northern Marianas and the United States was agreed some time ago. And for better or for worse, the Americans are coming to visit the family, and they will likely stay for a while, imperfect though they may be.

Kenneth F. OHarnett
via e-mail

The last straw

I applaud Rik & Janel Villegas' well-written article about the mounting frustration over CUC's lack of accountability. Like them, I want to scream every time my power goes out lately. Once a day was inconvenient enough, but two or three times a day is beyond ridiculous! My family's life has been severely disrupted by the increasingly frequent power outages in the last couple of weeks. We can't work, can't cook, and can't sleep well without power. My children suffer in the heat and the dark, and I can't help them. Everyone I talk to feels similarly. Why are we paying these sky high rates for nothing?

The worst part of the recent outages is their unpredictability. If we knew we would be without power from 4-6 pm every day, for example, we could plan around it. When I called CUC yesterday to ask why they weren't following the load shedding schedule published this week in the Saipan Tribune, the person I spoke to claimed there was no schedule. He said the outages were up to the power plant, and CUC had no control or foreknowledge. Give me a break! Can't they even organize and coordinate their efforts? Are they really that clueless and impotent?

Saipan is a beautiful island with a rich culture. Most of the people, both locals and transplants, are wonderful. But as many have noted in the past few months, the quality of life here is declining at an alarming rate. For me, the power problems are the last straw.

Wendy Rider
Fina Sisu, Saipan

What's the delay?

It's been days and days, yet many people are still waiting for their stimulus checks to be issued.

I do not quite understand what's the delay in the distribution. If the delay is all about errors and corrections, then why can't the processor of the stimulus checks see what the filers need before they even process them, instead of calling the filers a few days later to tell them that there was an error that needs to be corrected. They should observe and identify what is missing on the forms before they even process them.

It is my understanding that these checks are issued by batches but the ones that are supposed to receive their checks should already have them without delay. I urge the employees to get this going because the checks are needed.

As for suggestions that the government garnish the stimulus checks of those who owe the government money, this should not be done because the stimulus checks belong to the people. It is their choice whether or not they should pay off their debts. We all know what is going on and what shouldn't be done. The stimulus checks should already be distributed. The people are expecting them so that they can get their necessities. It is enough that we are going through gas increases, power bills being raised, groceries as well. With what we are going through with the economic situation, I am sure that there can be other arrangements that can be made rather than garnishing the stimulus checks to pay off whatever the people owe to the government. Think of the crisis and especially the school year is about to end and this can help for the next school year with what the students may need for their supplies. All that we are facing now is the economic depression!

Abigail Manglona
Yona, Guam

Thank you for making it possible

PAWS and Beautify CNMI! would like to thank the sponsors and supporters of this year's "Best of the Worst Dog Show." With community support, we were able to put together a great show and give away some great prizes. Thank you.

More specifically, we would like to thank our sponsors and donors: Rep. Diego Benavente, Mayor Juan B. Tudela, Costco, The Pew Charitable Trust, Beautify CNMI!, Angil Design Inc., Friends of the Mariana Islands, PTI, Expressions, Photography by Jack Hardy, Pacific Trading Co., Dr. Ignacio Dela Cruz, Judge Alex and Kathy Munson, and Tania David.

We would also like to thank the many volunteers who donated their precious time. Thank you George Hassleback, Judge Alex Munson, Brad Ruszula, Angelo Villagomez, Cinta Kaipat, Gus Kaipat, Francine Coulture, Ann Brazel, Mary McGee, Marja Onni, Melissa Simms, Adam and Rachell Miles, Judy Kim, Madison Smith, Ron and Moon Smith, Ken and Monique Kramer, Deane Jesse-Jones, Ciara B. Dela Cruz, Kiana Villagomez, Jay Santos, and Joe Przyuski.

Lastly, we could not have reached to the public without our friends in the media. Thank you *Saipan Tribune, Marianas Variety, KZMI, Beach Road Magazine*, and KSPN.

You all did a wonderful job! Thank you.

If you attended the event and would like to view and/or purchase pictures, please visit Photography by Jack Hardy at http://saipanjack.smugmug.com/gallery/5093092_N3YdK/. Pictures of the event are available for purchase, as are mouse pads, t-shirts, mugs, and anything else you can put a picture on! Purchases can be placed on online and 30 percent of profits will be donated to PAWS for the education program and rescues.

We look forward to seeing you all next year.

Katie Busenkell
PAWS President
Chair, Beautify CNMI! Animal Welfare Committee

BACKSIDE

From Page 10

on getting kids dressed and off to school each day. There are other obvious advantages.

What brings this line of rumination up is power outages. Neverending, inconvenient, uncomfortable and untimely CUC induced power outages. It came to me in a flash the other evening as I tried to sleep in my 150° F oven-like concrete house during the 14th power outage of the day. I could get up and go sit on the porch and enjoy the cooling breeze, butt butt just think how much more comfortable it would be sitting out there with *all* those skin pores exposed. Nature set us up with a natural evaporative cooling system which we inhibit by wearing clothes. We sweat; the moving air evaporates the moisture and cools us down. But when we wear clothing, we sweat; the cloth become soaked and we swelter.

While a 3-year-old can enjoy the freedom and comfort that nudity confers, we adults would only run afoul of a puritanical, European-based legal system that prohibits allowing nature's cooling system to function unfettered by clothes. No shoes, no shirt, no service. No pants, no serape and it's off to jail for "indecent exposure." Just which part is the indecent part? Before the Spanish came along and conquered this place with canons and muskets 400 odd years ago, there weren't any indecent parts. That traditional system of un-dress makes perfect sense when your body is located 15 degrees above the equator and temp/humidity heat index makes it feel like it's a 110 degrees outside instead of only 85. While reading to my 3 year old from the excellent CNMI textbook *History of the Northern Mariana Islands* by Don Ferrell, we learned about the smart indigenous solution to hot, humid, tropical weather…nudity. See, Dad?

There may be one saving grace in sending us off to jail if we adults are caught without all the politically correct items of clothing: it's cool inside there. As a local assistant attorney general has pointed out, we would not want to inconvenience our prisoners so they have a taxpayer paid generator to keep that A/C humming and those TVs a clamoring when CUC flubs the power yet again. It's the least we can do for thieves, child molesters, murderers and …nudists.

■■■

Quote of the week: No drug, not even alcohol, causes the fundamental ills of society. If we're looking for the source of our troubles, we shouldn't test people for drugs, we should test them for stupidity, ignorance, greed and love of power.

—P.J. O'Rourke, writer (1947-)

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲87° ▼78°

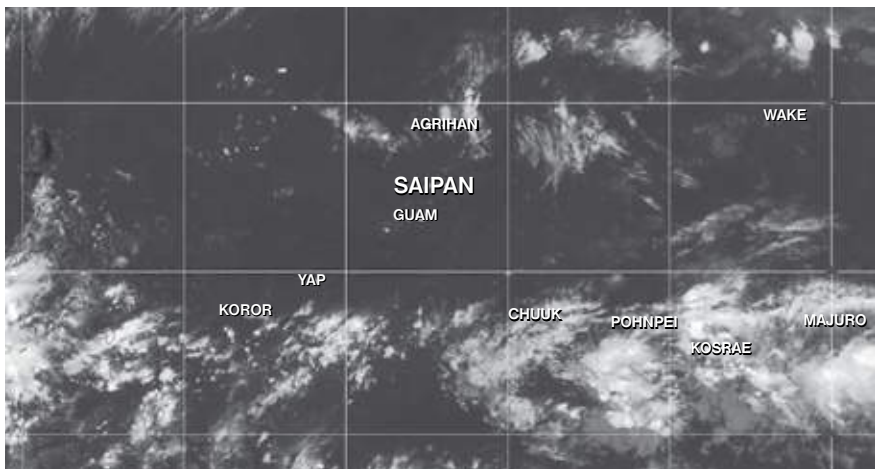
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼78
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼76
Majuro	Cloudy	▲86	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲59	▼47
Beijing	Cloudy	▲88	▼68
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Honolulu	Showers	▲82	▼74
London	Showers	▲72	▼50
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲78	▼59
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲62	▼52
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼77
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼66
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲72	▼65
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲76	▼55
Pusan	Cloudy	▲77	▼62
Rome	Cloudy	▲79	▼59
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲65	▼47
San Francisco	Sunny	▲72	▼52
Seoul	Cloudy	▲83	▼60
Tokyo	Showers	▲70	▼63
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲91	▼68

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line undulates northeastward from near 18N140E through the far northern CNMI at 19N146E to south of Minami Tori Shima at 23N155E then eastward as a stationary front to beyond the date line at 24N. Cloudiness and scattered showers are occurring along and up to 150 miles northwest of the shear line. Clouds and scattered showers are found along the stationary front and northward to beyond 25N. An upper-level low is centered near 18N149E or about 400 miles northeast of Guam. This low is moving west slowly and triggering thunderstorms along the shear line and stationary front west of 161E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers southeast of Koror and Yap within 70 miles of a line from eq135E to 4N138E to 6N142E. A larger area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms is situated south of Chuuk between 1N and 7N from 147E to 153E. A surface trough extends northward from eq161E to 10N161E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough are located over Kosrae and just southeast of Pohnpei or south of a line from 5N156E to 10N163E to 5N170E. Trade-wind convergence is also generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south and east of Majuro or over Butaritari Atoll within 100 miles of a line from 4N170E to 3N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:30AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
7:40AM Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
12:15PM Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:08PM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:46AM	6:47 PM
Wednesday	5:46AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	5:46AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:46AM	6:48 PM
Saturday	5:47AM	6:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:52AM	
Wednesday	12:41PM	12:20AM
Thursday	13:29PM	12:55AM
Friday	2:17PM	1:30AM
Saturday	3:06PM	2:06AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota			
CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7
Saipan-Guam			
CO9317	4:00am	4:50am	Daily
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily
Saipan-Narita			
NW 078	8:55am	2:00pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:45pm	7:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Osaka			
NW 083	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily
Saipan-Nagoya			
NW 078	8:55am	11:35am	Daily
Saipan-Manila			
CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3
Saipan-Seoul			
OZ 604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:50am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7
Saipan-Busan			
OZ 608	3:50am	7:20am	1,4,5,7
Guam-Manila			
CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2,7
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou			
CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6
Guam-Hongkong			
CO 909	6:40pm	9:25pm	1,5
Guam-Rota			
CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan			
CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6
Guam-Saipan			
CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	Daily
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
Narita-Saipan			
NW 076	10:15am	2:55pm	Daily
NW 077	6:25pm	1:30am+1	Daily via Nagoya
Osaka-Saipan			
NW 084	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily
Nagoya-Saipan			
NW 077	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily
Manila-Saipan			
CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3
Seoul-Saipan			
OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
Busan-Saipan			
OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7
Manila-Guam			
CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2,7
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:20pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7
Guanzhou-Saipan			
CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5
Hongkong-Guam			
CO 910	10:35pm	5:15am+1	1,5
Rota-Guam			
CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
5,691.200
Up 57.400
(+1.02%)

HONG KONG
24,402.18
Up 146.89
(+0.61%)

JAKARTA
2,378.158
Down 24.0781
(-1.00%)

TOKYO
14,230.80
Down 258.64
(-1.79%)

K. LUMPUR
1,248.57
Up 25.01
(+2.04%)

MANILA
2,739.70
Up 21.28
(+0.78%)

SINGAPORE
3,082.16
Down 64.57
(+2.05%)

SEOUL
1,806.24
Down 26.07
(-1.42%)

BANGKOK
808.07
Down 9.26
(-1.13%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
12,209.81
-394.64

NASDAQ
2,474.56
-75.38

S&P
1,360.68
0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0399
British Pound	0.5081
Canadian Dollar	1.0172
Chinese Renmbi	6.9182
Euro	0.6338
Hong Kong Dollar	7.8087
Indian Rupee	42.916
Indonesian Rupiah	9353
Japanese Yen	105.315
Malaysian Ringgit	3.261
New Zealand Dollar	1.3021
Philippine Peso	44.16
Singapore Dollar	1.3632
South Korean Won	1029.3
Swiss Franc	1.0214
Taiwan Dollar	30.33
Thailand Baht	33.24

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Gas hits nat'l average of $4 for 1st time

By ADAM SCHRECK
AP BUSINESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The average price of regular gas crept up to $4 a gallon for the first time over the weekend, passing the once-unthinkable milestone just in time for the peak summer travel season.

Prices at the pump are expected to keep climbing, especially after last week's furious surge in oil prices, which neared $140 a barrel in a record-shattering rally Friday.

While Americans who have to drive will feel the biggest squeeze, the increased prices also translate into higher costs for consumers and businesses, who will be forced to shoulder increased costs for food and anything else that needs to be transported.

"I don't think we've felt quite the full impact of $138 or $139 a barrel oil," said Jason Toews, co-founder of fuel price research site GasBuddy.com.

Gas prices rolled past their latest threshold Sunday, increasing to $4.005 a gallon overnight from $3.988 the day before, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service.

Of course, drivers in many parts of the country have already been paying well above that price for some time.

California has seen some of the highest prices; a gallon there now averages $4.436 a gallon, the most in the country. Missourians are paying the least at the pump, with a gallon in the Show-Me State selling for a relatively cheap $3.802 a gallon.

Prices have risen by about 20 cents in the past three weeks, according to a report by the Lundberg Survey released Sunday.

Truckers and others with diesel engines under the hood have it even worse off. A gallon of diesel now sells for $4.762, up nearly a penny overnight, according to AAA and OPIS. Prices hit a record atop $4.79 at the end of May.

Skyrocketing oil prices, which are trading at more than double their level last year, are largely to blame for the surge. Crude prices shot up more than 13 percent late last week in their biggest two-day price gain in history.

AP

New York resident Austin Rommett fills his scooter with fuel at a gas station in New York on Sunday, June 8, 2008.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Farm crisis spooks Argentine economy

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Argentina, one of the world's biggest breadbaskets, should be rolling in cash as world food prices soar. Instead, soy, wheat and corn have sat for weeks in silos as farmers protesting new export taxes suspended sales. Farmers were lifting their strike Sunday night in a last-ditch effort at a third round of talks. But their three-month standoff with the government has already paralyzed the rural economy, caused scattered food shortages and tanked the new president's popularity. And continued stalemate could spike global grain prices at a time when food costs are already high. Still, experts say grain prices won't rise forever, and many warn that Argentina may be missing its shot at that record revenue - and headed for economic crisis.

G-8 to fight oil prices with efficiency, tech

AOMORI, Japan (AP)—Faced with record-high oil prices, the world's leading economies and oil consumers Sunday pledged greater investment in energy efficiency and green technologies to control their spiraling thirst for petroleum. In a joint statement, energy ministers from the Group of Eight countries, joined by China, India and South Korea, also urged oil producers to boost output, which has stalled at about 85 million barrels a day since 2005, and called for cooperation between buyers and producers. But with little prospect for a surge in production anytime soon, the focus of Sunday's meeting was on what wealthy nations should do to rein in consumption, while reducing carbon emissions blamed for global warming.

USDA papers: Burger recall followed riskier procedures

NEWARK, N.J. (AP)—While the Topps Meat Co. churned out millions of frozen hamburgers a month, beef ground one day was often stored and "reworked" with meat from another production cycle, government documents show. A conveyor belt that moved raw patties to packaging was marred by "gouges, cracks and tears," inspectors said. They found residue on surfaces that fresh meat came into contact with. But the plant kept operating, until an outbreak of E. coli last summer and fall sickened at least 40 people in eight states and led to one of the nation's largest beef recalls. Documents obtained by The Associated Press and interviews show that the now-defunct company cut back on testing for the dangerous pathogen and disregarded sanitary issues, but also that federal food inspectors overlooked crucial evidence that Topps used risky processing procedures and operated under a flawed food safety plan.

Icahn's big bet on Yahoo hinges on Microsoft sale

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Antagonistic investor Carl Icahn became a billionaire by bullying already distressed companies, but his harassment of Yahoo Inc. could leave him with a black eye - and a hole in his wallet - if he's wrong about Microsoft Corp.'s desire to buy the Internet pioneer. Icahn, 72, has used a combination of guile, gall, grit and gamesmanship to get his way more often than not since he began tormenting vulnerable companies 30 years ago. The conquests helped Icahn build an estimated fortune of $14 billion after starting out on Wall Street with a $4,000 bankroll from his winnings playing poker. Having spent more than $1 billion for a 4.3 percent stake in the company, Yahoo represents one of Icahn's biggest bets yet.

Companies offer free gas to lure business

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Two magic words are turning consumers' heads lately. Not "Get rich" or "Lose weight." Try "Free gas." Businesses from banks and hotels to golf-club makers and blood-donation centers are offering promotions that involve free gas - generating more attention and goodwill from price-stunned drivers than traditional promotions might deliver.

For example, Callaway Golf Co. is giving away gas cards worth as much as $100 with the sale of certain drivers. Guests who book three nights through hotels.com will get $50 gas cards. And TCF Bank, based in Wayzata, Minn., is giving $50 gas cards to customers who open checking accounts.

The trend will grow in the short-term as more businesses jump on the free-gas bandwagon, predicts Baohong Sun, a marketing professor at the Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon University.

"A lot of companies, when they make decisions they don't think independently," Sun said. "They'll jump into whatever their competitors are doing, so more companies are likely to mimic this strategy."

She expects the trend will fade by summer's end.

AP

Doug Symes, left, of Burnsville, Minn., stands with his son Greg and nephew Aaron Gaspar, right, outside the Kalahari Waterpark Resort on Wednesday, June 4, 2008, in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin. One of the deciding factors in the Symes staying at the Kalahari was a promotion that includes a free $40 gas card.

Uneasy Wall Street eyes oil, retail data

NEW YORK (AP)—That economic rebound in the second half of the year so many experts have predicted—including Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke himself—is starting to look dicey.

Wall Street has just three weeks left until July starts, and signs of trouble keep surfacing.

Sure, there have been a few upbeat readings recently, including better-than-expected sales figures from some retailers and strong first-quarter worker productivity. But last week culminated in a spike in the unemployment rate and a huge leap in oil prices that returned to record levels—two pieces of news that drove the Dow Jones industrials down nearly 400 points Friday.

With jobs growing scarcer and energy costs still climbing, Wall Street's big worry is that Americans are going to keep tightening their budgets—a shrewd move on the part of consumers, but an alarming prospect for companies that depend on them.

Last week, the Dow finished down 3.39 percent, the Standard & Poor's 500 index closed down 2.83 percent, and the Nasdaq composite index ended 1.91 percent lower.

Nation

Severe weather kills 8; water rises in Ind.

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Wicked weekend storms pounded the country from the Midwest to the East Coast, forcing hundreds of people to flee flooded communities, spawning tornadoes that tore up houses and killing at least eight people.

Rescuers in boats continued to pluck people from rising waters in Indiana on Sunday, a day after more than 10 inches of rain deluged much of the state.

In Iowa, pumps and thousands of sandbags were sent to the Iowa City area, where officials fear a reservoir could top a spillway and flood the city of about 63,000 by Tuesday.

The Indiana flooding killed at least one person, a man who drowned in his vehicle about 50 miles south of Indianapolis, said John Erickson, a spokesman for the state Department of Homeland Security. Another person was reported missing after falling off a boat about 30 miles southwest of Indianapolis.

In Michigan, two delivery workers for The Grand Rapids Press drowned early Sunday when their car became submerged in a creek that washed out a road near Lake Michigan in Saugatuck Township, the newspaper said.

Two other people in the state were killed by falling trees, one man drowned and a woman died when high winds blew a recreational vehicle on top of her, authorities said.

And lightning struck a pavilion at a state park in Connecticut, killing one person and injuring four, state environmental spokesman Dennis Schain said.

At least one tornado hit the Omaha, Neb., area with little to no warning as people slept Sunday morning, damaging several dozen homes and businesses. No major injuries were reported.

"I'd say it was a miracle no one got killed," said Omaha Mayor Mike Fahey as he toured a heavily damaged neighborhood in the west Omaha area of Millard.

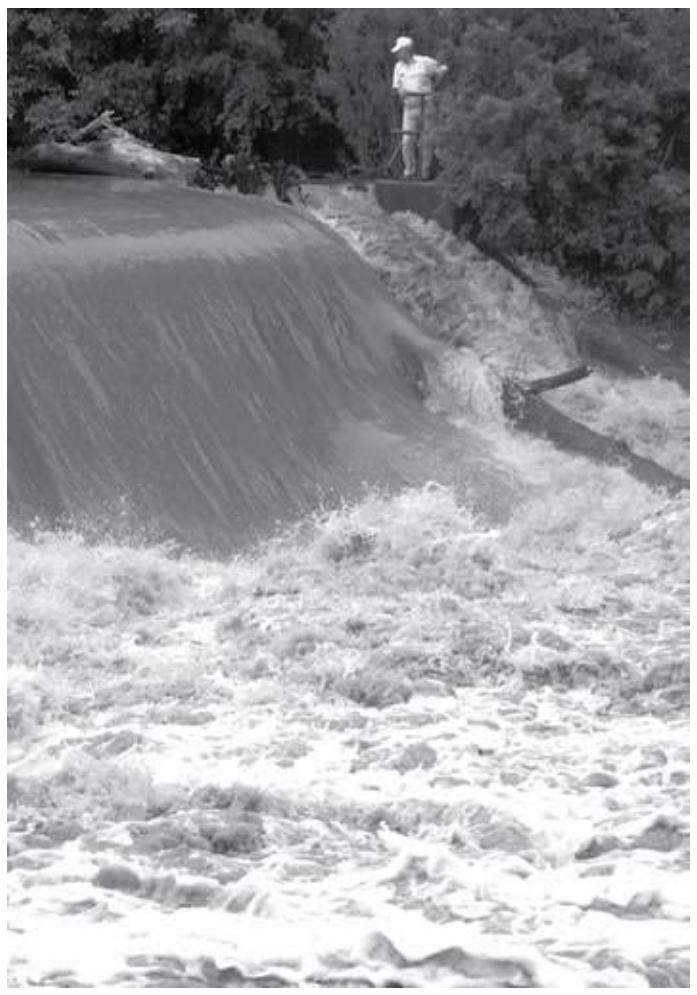
Paul Higgins, 87, said the front door blew open and he was knocked down when he checked on the storm around 2:30 a.m.

"At the time you couldn't see anything" outside, Higgins said. "It was like a fog. So much stuff blowing around."

Higgins said he and his wife sought shelter in their basement, emerging to find a tree against a house across the street and a neighboring house missing its roof.

Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle declared a state of emergency in 29 counties and Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels sent a letter to President Bush requesting that an expedited major disaster be declared for 44 counties in Indiana.

Iowa saw some of its worst flooding in more than a decade, Gov. Chet Culver said in a statement as he declared an emergency in nearly a third of the state's 99 counties, freeing up state resources.



AP

Water, at record levels, from the Root River flows over the Horlick Dam in Racine, Wis. on Sunday June 8, 2008, following heavy rains.

Ohio plane crash kills 6, including ex-lawmaker

FREMONT, Ohio (AP)—A small plane crashed Sunday afternoon in a residential area and killed all six people aboard, including the pilot, a former state lawmaker who had offered joyrides to airport visitors after a charity breakfast.

Gene Damschroder Sr., 86, was flying the fixed-wing, single-engine Cessna when it crashed about 1 p.m., the Ohio State Highway Patrol said. His five passengers also died in the crash in Sandusky County.

"It was just kind of an accident. He was giving airplane rides. He always gives charity air rides," said Gene Damschroder's son, Rex Damschroder, who was not at the airport when the plane crashed.

"Someone said they heard the engine sputter," he said. "The next thing we knew they were down in a field in a residential area."

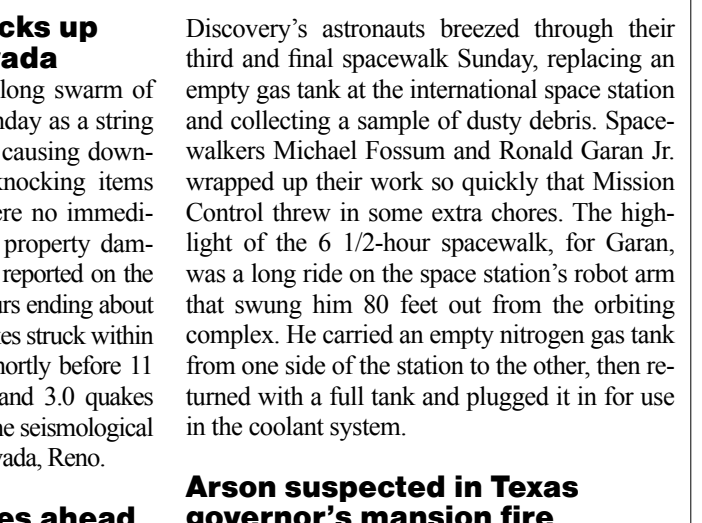
No one on the ground was injured, and no buildings were damaged, patrol Lt. Tony Bradshaw said. It was too early to tell what caused the crash. The National Weather Service said there was no severe weather in the area at the time.

The Lions Club of Fremont on Sunday held a fly-in breakfast, inviting nearby pilots to fly to Fremont Airport and display their planes.

After the event, Damschroder offered visitors a chance to go up in planes for the cost of fuel, according to a poster at the airport. The joyrides were not related to the Lions Club event.

Authorities could not confirm that those on board had taken Damschroder up on his offer. Also killed were Bill Ansted, 62; Allison Ansted, 23; Danielle Gerwin, 31; Emily Gerwin, 4; and Matt Clearman, 25.

Federal investigators were on their way to the crash site, Bradshaw said.



AP

An investigator inspects the wreckage of the crashed Cessna in Fremont, Ohio Sunday June 8, 2008.

4 killed in Texas chopper crash

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP)—A medical helicopter crashed on an isolated ranch in a national forest early Sunday, killing a patient and three crew members and strewing debris over a wide area.

The PHI Air Medical helicopter crew was taking a 58-year-old patient from a hospital in Huntsville to one in Houston for surgery, said Butch Davis, Walker County chief sheriff's deputy.

The flight left Huntsville Memorial Hospital at 2:45 a.m., and the hospital lost contact with it two minutes later, Davis said. Searchers didn't find the wreckage in the Sam Houston National Forest for almost six hours.

"We had to bring a 'dozer in to get us a right-of-way into the wreckage," he said. A path was cleared to the site, about 60 yards off a ranch road.

The owner of the private ranch wasn't there at the time of the crash, Davis said. The cause was being investigated, and the weather was clear at the time.

He identified the dead as patient David Disman, flight nurse Jana Bishop, pilot Wayne Kirby and flight paramedic Stephanie Waters. The bodies were taken for autopsies.

"This is a devastating loss," said Jonathan Collier, spokesman for PHI Air Medical.

The company said the flight crew's last successful mission came several hours earlier, when they helped save a 2-year-old child pulled from a swimming pool.

"They will be remembered for their professionalism, compassion for others, magnetic personalities and their unwavering dedication for the wellbeing of others," the company said in a statement.

Sailors survive hours in Gulf; 1 dead

GALVESTON, Texas (AP)—Four college students and a safety officer floated for more than a day in choppy seas, sharing four life vests after their sailboat capsized during a regatta on the Gulf of Mexico, authorities said Sunday. The body of a second safety officer was removed from the boat later.

The safety officer who survived kept the group together in the water and used a flashlight to signal Coast Guard searchers, said R. Bowen Loftin, CEO of Texas A&M at Galveston, which three of the students attended.

The survivors were at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and were in good condition with sunburn and dehydration, Loftin said.

The men were resting and visiting with their families after 26 hours floating in the Gulf, said a hospital spokeswoman.

A helicopter crew from Air Station Houston pulled the five men from the water 23 miles south of Freeport, Texas, Petty Officer Renee C. Aiello said Sunday. They had drifted about five miles northwest of their capsized boat.

"I've talked to all of them, and they're all doing fine," he said. "They were extremely happy to be alive."

Three of the students—Steven Guy, Joe Savana and Travis Wright—attend Texas A&M at Galveston, the school said in a news release. The fourth, Ross James Buzbee, attends Texas A&M in College Station, the school said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Earthquake swarm picks up again in northern Nevada

RENO, Nev. (AP)—A months-long swarm of earthquakes picked up again Sunday as a string of minor temblors rattled Reno, causing downtown high-rises to sway and knocking items off walls and shelves. There were no immediate reports of injuries or major property damage after about 20 minor quakes reported on the western edge of Reno over 12 hours ending about noon. Magnitude-3.9 and 3.6 quakes struck within a couple minutes of each other shortly before 11 a.m. and were preceded by 3.2 and 3.0 quakes early Sunday, said researchers at the seismological laboratory at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Long, busy summer lies ahead of McCain and Obama

WASHINGTON (AP)—While many people will work on their tans this summer, or on summer reading lists or on not working too hard, two exceptions—John McCain and Barack Obama—and their underlings will be working. Working industriously on an election that only one can win. With 11 weeks to the start of the Democratic convention—and the GOP event just days later—Republican McCain and Democrat Obama will be focused on strategy, fundraising, shoring up weak spots and exploiting opportunities to prepare themselves for the sprint to Nov. 4.

Astronauts breeze through their 3rd spacewalk

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—Shuttle Discovery's astronauts breezed through their third and final spacewalk Sunday, replacing an empty gas tank at the international space station and collecting a sample of dusty debris. Spacewalkers Michael Fossum and Ronald Garan Jr. wrapped up their work so quickly that Mission Control threw in some extra chores. The highlight of the 6 1/2-hour spacewalk, for Garan, was a long ride on the space station's robot arm that swung him 80 feet out from the orbiting complex. He carried an empty nitrogen gas tank from one side of the station to the other, then returned with a full tank and plugged it in for use in the coolant system.

Arson suspected in Texas governor's mansion fire

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Arson is suspected in a fire that swept through the historic Texas governor's mansion early Sunday, leaving much of the 152-year-old building charred and severely damaged, the state fire marshal said. No one was believed to be inside when the fire started at the home, whose roof buckled because of the flames and the massive amount of water used to put them out. Officials said there is no evidence any direct threat was intended to Gov. Rick Perry, who is out of the country with his wife, Anita. Parts of the six 29-foot columns at the front of the home, a national historic landmark, and much of the front wall were charred black. In some places the original color of the brick could be seen where white paint had burned off.

Asia

7 dead in stabbing spree in downtown Tokyo

By SHINO YUASA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

TOKYO (AP)—A man plowed into shoppers with a truck Sunday and then stabbed 17 people within minutes, killing at least seven of them in a grisly attack that shocked a country known for its low crime rate.

The lunchtime violence in the Akihabara district, a popular electronics and video game area, sent thousands of people fleeing.

The assault, which occurred on the seventh anniversary of a mass stabbing at a Japanese elementary school, was the latest in a series of knife attacks that have stoked fears of rising violent crime in Japan.

A 25-year-old man, Tomohiro Kato, was arrested with blood on his face.

"The suspect told police that he came to Akihabara to kill people," said Jiro Akaogi, a spokesman for the Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department.

"He said he was tired of life. He said he was sick of everything," Akaogi said.

The violence began when the man crashed a rented, two-ton truck into pedestrians. He then jumped out and began stabbing the people he had knocked down with the truck before turning on horrified onlookers, police said.

Police confirmed seven deaths - six men and one woman - but they could not say whether the victims had died of injuries from the truck or were stabbed to death.

Reports said the attacker grunted and roared as he slashed and stabbed at Sunday shoppers crowding a street lined with huge stores packed with the latest in computers, electronics, videos and games.

"He was screaming as he was stabbing people at random," a male witness told national broadcaster NHK.

AP

In this image taken by an anonymous pedestrian via Kyodo News, Tomohiro Kato, wearing glasses, is detained by police officers in Tokyo's Akihabara district Sunday, June 8, 2008.

Another witness told NHK that the suspect dropped his knife after police threatened to shoot him. Amateur video filmed by mobile phone showed policemen overpowering the bespectacled, bloodied suspect.

The attack paralyzed the district known as Electric Town and sent thousands of Sunday shoppers into a panic. Amateur video taken five minutes after the rampage showed shoppers helping victims and a man screaming, "Ambulance, Ambulance!"

At least 17 ambulances rushed to the scene, and rescue workers feverishly tended to victims in the blood-pooled street.

'Myanmar dead may never be identified'

YANGON,Myanmar(AP)-Tens of thousands of people killed in last month's cyclone may never be identified because their bodies have decomposed so badly and many ended up far from home, an aid organization said Sunday.

The task of burying an estimated 78,000 bodies has been overshadowed by efforts to assist Cyclone Nargis' 2.4 million survivors, many of whom are still without adequate food, water and shelter, the International Committee of the Red Cross said.

As a result, bloated bodies still litter the hard-hit Irrawaddy delta more than five weeks after the storm, while other bodies have been dumped in canals or unmarked mass graves.

"Many now are in advanced stages of decay and the information we have been able to gather is that many of the bodies that were effected by the tidal surges were stripped of clothing and any identifying items," said Craig Strathern, a Red Cross spokesman in Myanmar.

Aftershock rocks China lake, creates landslides

By CARA ANNA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

QINGLIAN, China (AP)—A magnitude 5.0 aftershock shook a brimming, earthquake-formed lake and sent landslides tumbling down surrounding mountains Sunday, underscoring the persistent threat of flooding to more than 1 million weary refugees downstream.

No new evacuations were ordered and the lake's dam of unstable mud and rocks did not collapse, said Hu Peng, a media officer at the disaster relief headquarters of the lake. He had no additional details.

More than 250,000 people downstream have been evacuated in recent weeks.

The effect of the 20-second temblor on Tangjiashan lake, as it is known, was not clear and its dam was under surveillance, said the state-run Xinhua News Agency, which had a reporter at the site. A diversion channel draining the lake appeared to be operating smoothly following the aftershock and a rainstorm about the same time, the agency said.

The temblor was centered about seven miles northwest of the lake, according to data reported by the U.S. Geological Survey. It set off landslides on nearby mountains, Xinhua said, without indicating whether any rubble landed in the lake and pushed water levels even higher.

One evacuee in a mountainside tent camp about 25 miles downstream said the situation remained stable.

"We felt the aftershock but it wasn't anything bad. We're numb to this by now," said Yu Taichun, a doctor living with about 2,500 people on Taohua Mountain, overlooking the riverside town of Qinglian.

The Tangjiashan lake was formed when rubble from a landslide set off by the deadly May 12 earthquake blocked the flow of the Tongkou River. Despite a hastily dug diversion channel that began draining the lake early Saturday, water levels have continued rising dangerously.

Stranded divers chase off Komodo dragon on island

By ALI KOTARUMALOS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)-Scuba divers swept away in strong currents survived 12 hours in shark-infested waters before scrambling onto a remote Indonesian island where they faced yet another threat: a Komodo dragon.

The divers - three from Britain and one each from France and Sweden - came face-to-face with the giant, carnivorous lizard on Rinca's palm-fringed beach, and fought it off by pelting it with rocks and pieces of wood, Pariman, a port official said Sunday.

"Luckily, they were able to chase it away," said Pariman, who, like many Indonesians, goes by only one name.

The beasts have sharp, serrated teeth and often come out when they smell something new, including humans - whom they've been known to kill, Pariman said.

The divers encountered treacherous currents after plunging from their wooden boat off Tatawa island on Thursday afternoon.

ASIAN BRIEFS

RP rebels attack military outpost

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Communist guerrillas attacked a government militia outpost in the southern Philippines, seizing at least 14 rifles and burning bunkhouses in the latest surge of rebel attacks that has alarmed the military, officials said Sunday. About 30 New People's Army guerrillas swooped down on the militia outpost Saturday near Nabunturan township in mountainous Compostela Valley province, sparking a 30-minute clash, which did not cause any injuries to either side, the military said. After overwhelming and disarming the militiamen, the guerrillas ransacked their armory and stole the rifles. They burned at least five bunkhouses then fled, briefly taking hostage some relatives of the militiamen to cover their retreat, military spokesman Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres said.

British military: 3 soldiers slain in Afghanistan

LONDON (AP)-Britain's military says three soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan. The soldiers were killed by a suicide bomber while on foot patrol less than a mile from their base in Afghanistan's Upper Sangin Valley. A fourth soldier was wounded in the attack Sunday. The head of Britain's armed forces, Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup, and Defense Secretary Des Browne released a joint statement expressing their pride in the military's fight against Taliban rebels in the region.

Scores of Tibetan protesters detained in Nepal

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Nepalese authorities detained about 185 Tibetan exiles protesting Sunday against China's crackdown in their homeland. Police official Hom Chauhan said the protesters were detained during a rally in front of the Chinese Embassy's visa office in Katmandu, the latest in almost daily demonstrations by the Tibetan exiles. "Stop killing in Tibet," the protesters chanted. Chauhan said those detained would most likely be freed later Sunday. Nepalese officials say protests against friendly nations, including China, will not be allowed and Tibetan refugees are barred from all political activities.

Musharraf faces more calls for ouster in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—A junior party in Pakistan's government called Sunday for its main coalition partner to back the impeachment of President Pervez Musharraf, a day after the former army strongman rebuffed calls from both parties to resign. Ahsan Iqbal, a spokesman for ex-Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's party, called Musharraf "a virus in the democratic computer" and said Asif Ali Zardari's party should not hesitate to "join us for Musharraf's impeachment." A spokesman for Zardari's party said it would "consider" pushing for impeachment proceedings in light of Musharraf's defiance.

TRAIN DERAILS AP

In this photo released by China's Xinhua News Agency, rescuers work near a derailed train at the Jintang County, more than 80 kilometers (50 miles) northeast to Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province Sunday, June 8, 2008. One railway worker was killed and a cargo train driver was seriously injured when the train derailed after being hit by falling mountain rocks on Sunday morning, Xinhua said. It was not known if the falling rocks were related to the May 12 quake or its aftershocks.

World

Suicide car bomb kills US soldier, wounds 20

By SAMEER N. YACOUB
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BAGHDAD (AP)—A suicide truck bomber who concealed his explosives under tanned animal hides struck a U.S. patrol base Sunday in northern Iraq, killing one U.S. soldier and wounding 18 other Americans, U.S. and Iraqi officials said.

Two Iraqi contractors working at the base in Tamim province also were wounded, according to a brief statement from the military.

Tamim has a mixed population of Arabs, Kurds and Turkomen, with the oil-rich city of Kirkuk as its capital. Three American soldiers were killed last Wednesday by gunfire in Tamim.

Brig. Sarhat Qadir, a senior officer in the Kirkuk police department, said the bomber targeted a U.S. patrol base in a mostly Sunni Arab residential area in Rashad, about 25 miles southwest of Kirkuk.

The suicide attacker rammed his vehicle into blast walls outside the gates of the small U.S. base, located in a residential neighborhood of Sunni Arabs, Qadir said. He added that the explosives were concealed under tanned animal hides.

Earlier, the U.S. military issued a statement saying an American soldier died late Saturday when his vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb in eastern Baghdad.

At least 4,094 members of the U.S. military have died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

In Baghdad, four police recruits were killed in a blast at the National Police headquarters, authorities said.

Another 22 people were wounded near the building's gate where recruits were gathering, they said. Police gave conflicting reports about whether the attack used mortars or a roadside bomb.

A blast just outside Baghdad's Green Zone on Sunday killed three civilians and wounded 10, the U.S. military said. Iraqi police initially said it was caused by a mortar targeting the Defense Ministry. But the U.S. said a "criminal" threw a grenade from a vehicle.

Mortar and rocket attacks were once a daily occurrence in the Green Zone in central Baghdad, but have fallen off in recent weeks.

Another civilian was killed by a roadside bomb Sunday in northern Baghdad, police said. Five others were wounded in the attack, which took place about 100 yards from the Turkish Embassy. The target was believed to be a passing police patrol and not the embassy building.

Meanwhile, six shepherds were killed execution-style before dawn Sunday by suspected militants linked to al-Qaida masquerading as fellow herders east of Baghdad, police said.

The killings took place in a sprawling desert area where such militants are believed to have sought refuge after U.S.-Iraqi offensives against them in western Anbar province and in Baghdad, police said.

Strong earthquake hits Greece; 2 dead

ATHENS, Greece (AP) -- A strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.5 struck southwestern Greece on Sunday, killing at least two people, injuring more than 100 and leveling dozens of homes, authorities said.

It was Greece's first fatal earthquake since 1999, when a 5.9 magnitude quake near Athens killed 143 people and left thousands homeless.

Sunday's quake struck at 3:25 p.m. near the port city of Patras, about 120 miles west of Athens in the northwestern Peloponnese, the Athens Geodynamic Institute said. It was felt as far away as southern Italy.

Two people were killed and 120 were injured, Interior Minister Prokopis Pavlopoulos said.

A couple on a motorbike pass by a destroyed house in Kato Ahagia, Greece, on Sunday June 8, 2008. AP

By nightfall, six of the injured remained hospitalized.

One man was killed by a falling pergola outside his home in Kato Ahaia, a village near the epicenter, while a woman who had only been slightly injured in the quake died later in the hospital of a heart attack, Pavlopoulos said.

"My thoughts in these hours are with our fellow citizens who are suffering," Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis said in a statement from Vienna, Austria, where he was on a three-day visit. "I want to stress and underline that the state will be at (their) side."

Karamanlis was to cut his visit to Austria short and return to Greece on Monday.

Frequent aftershocks rattled already frightened residents, and seismologists urged caution, particularly around buildings damaged in the initial quake.

"We are watching the seismic activity with great attention. We are not yet certain that the danger is completely over," said Athens Geodynamic Institute director Gerasimos Papadopoulos.

Although it was unlikely there would be a stronger quake, he said, "there is still concern."

With dozens of houses destroyed or severely damaged, the government said it would give $4,680 to anyone who had lost their primary home in the quake. Authorities also said they would set up tents for those left homeless and distribute food.

Military helicopters and transport planes, and a specialized Air Force rescue crew were placed on standby, the National Defense General Staff said.

Teams of rescuers from 17 Balkan and Mediterranean countries who had just arrived in Greece for a disaster response training exercise joined in rescue efforts.

The quake damaged the air traffic control tower of the Andravida military airport, but a secondary tower was being used and the airport remained open, the general staff said.

Two families - seven people in total - were rescued after being trapped in houses that collapsed, one in the village of Fostaina, about 20 miles south of Patras, the other in the village of Vartholomio, authorities said.

Television footage showed rescue crews pulling a 9-year-old girl from beneath the rubble of her house in Fostaina after a two-hour rescue effort and placing her on a stretcher. The girl suffered only slight injuries.

"I have seen nothing like that in my lifetime," an 88-year-old woman in Kato Ahaia, told state-run NET television. "When the earthquake began, I was in bed. I tried to leave but fell down. I crawled on my knees to the front door."

WORLD BRIEFS

Lawyer: Gitmo interrogators told to trash notes

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)-The Pentagon urged interrogators at Guantanamo Bay to destroy handwritten notes in case they were called to testify about potentially harsh treatment of detainees, a military defense lawyer said Sunday. The lawyer for Toronto-born Omar Khadr, Lt. Cmdr. William Kuebler, said the instructions were included in an operations manual shown to him by prosecutors and suggest the U.S. deliberately thwarted evidence that could help terror suspects defend themselves at trial. Kuebler said the apparent destruction of evidence prevents him from challenging the reliability of any alleged confessions. He said he will use the document to seek a dismissal of charges against Khadr.

Iraqi PM: US-Iraq security pact will not harm Iran

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iraq's prime minister pushed Iran's leaders to back off their fierce opposition to a proposed security pact with the U.S. on Sunday, promising that his country will not be a launching pad for any attack on them. The agreement has become a center of contention as Baghdad tries to balance its close ties to both Washington and Tehran. Iran fears the deal will lead to permanent U.S. bases on its doorstep amid fears of an eventual American attack. Iran has led a vocal campaign against the deal, with powerful former President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani vowing last week that people in Iraq and the region won't allow it. That has led to U.S. accusations that Tehran is actively trying to scuttle the agreement.

Chavez urges FARC to end armed struggle

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)— Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez on Sunday urged Colombian rebels to lay down their weapons, unilaterally free dozens of hostages and end a decades-long armed struggle. Chavez sent the uncharacteristic message to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, saying their ongoing efforts to overthrow Colombia's democratically elected government were unjustified. "The guerrilla war is history," Chavez said during his weekly television and radio program. "At this moment in Latin America, an armed guerrilla movement is out of place."

Europe already looking past Bush's presidency

By DEB RIECHMANN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—President George W. Bush's motorcade will speed through European capitals next week, but for many Europeans, the Bush presidency already is in their rearview mirrors.

Trans-Atlantic relations are on the upswing as European leaders have moved beyond their anger over the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. Still, anti-Bush sentiment runs high on the streets, though that is being mollified by Europeans' excitement about the race for Bush's successor.

Like many Americans, Europeans have Bush fatigue. Many believe Barack Obama and John McCain will have different positions—perhaps more favorable—than Bush on issues important to Europe. The president continues promoting his agenda on climate change, Mideast peace and world trade issues, yet his influence has ebbed.

"I'm sure there will be some protests, but I think people are just looking past this guy at this point and they're interested in what comes next," said James M. Goldgeier, an expert on Europe at the Council on Foreign Relations.

"There's no reason for any leader to give him anything because he's on the way out. You have a presidency that's losing energy, is consumed by Iraq and a president who is unpopular, in general, in Europe and people are looking beyond him," Goldgeier said.

Bush's weeklong farewell trip to Slovenia, Germany, Italy, France and Britain is not Bush's final goodbye to his European counterparts. He sees them again at a summit next month in Japan.

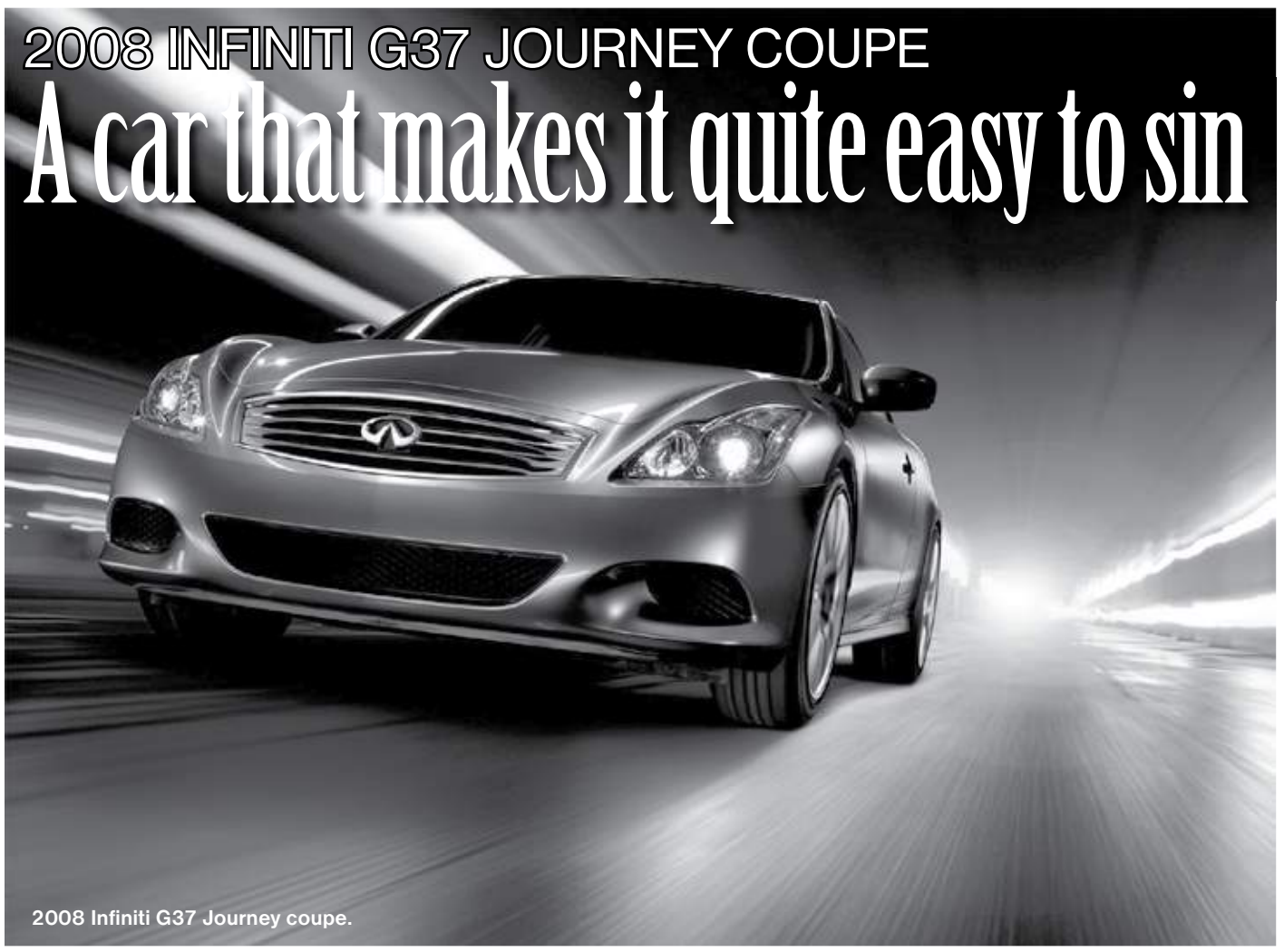
Yet as he completes the final leg of his presidency, the trip to Central and Western Europe is one of Bush's last chances to lay the groundwork for U.S.-European relations for his successor.

AP
President Bush boards Marine One as he departs the White House in Washington, Friday, June 6, 2008.

Overdrive

2008 INFINITI G37 JOURNEY COUPE

A car that makes it quite easy to sin



2008 Infiniti G37 Journey coupe.

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

Ria Manglapus, my associate in vehicle evaluations, has been driving for 32 years. She didn't get her license as a teenager. She was never a wild and crazy driver.

So her speeding ticket—her very first one—was stunningly unexpected.

"I'm so sorry," she confessed to the arresting Virginia state trooper, from behind the wheel of the week's test car, the 2008 Infiniti G37 Journey coupe. "I didn't know I was going that fast."

Having driven many miles in the G37 Journey, I completely understand.

The car made her do it.

It is a demon car, a sneaky and seductive automobile. Had Adam and Eve fallen from grace in a car, they would have done so in the G37 Journey, or, perhaps, in the even more serpentine G37 Sport 6MT.

Let us examine the particulars. The rear-wheel-drive G37 line—including Base, Journey and Sport 6MT versions—replaces Infiniti's G35 coupes. The G35 cars were wicked. The G37 coupes, as evinced by the G37 Journey, are absolutely evil.

The difference between wicked and evil is surprise. Wicked behavior is consistent. When you're dealing with wicked, you know what you're getting into. Evil behavior is deceptive. You think you're dealing with one thing, but you wind up dealing with something radically different.

Such is the case with the G37 Journey. It's downright deceptive.

The inside of an Infiniti G37 Journey.

I was disappointed with the car's behavior in suburban and urban venues. It felt heavy and ponderous, much like a fat, soft luxury cruiser. Later, I took a midnight run along some Virginia highways that were relatively free of traffic. Whoa!

The G37 Journey's 3.7-liter, 330-horsepower V-6 engine awakened as if from a vampire's sleep. It roared with menace and taunt. The car moved frighteningly fast. I tried to control its speed by putting its five-speed, automatic/manual transmission in manual mode. But the car seemed to enjoy the switch. It appeared to run faster and roar louder.

I thought about the 1983 movie "Christine," which depicted a car possessed. How could it be—a car so tame that it appeared to be lame in one setting, but so demonically fast that it ran like hell in another? It's an "Infiniti thing," I concluded.

Infiniti is Nissan's luxury division. Since opening its doors in the United States in 1989, Infiniti has been on a mission to dazzle consumers with beautiful designs and rev them up with engines and suspensions that deliver high performance. That double-whammy approach designed to exploit the virtuous and dark sides of prospective buyers, has served Infiniti well. But it landed Ria in trouble with the law.

"I, I got a ticket," she stammered, telling me of her encounter with the police. "I can't believe it. Me—I got a ticket. I don't get tickets. I've never gotten a ticket," she said, dropping the Journey's key into my palm, as if releasing a viper.

"Thirty-two years and I've never gotten a ticket, never ..."

NUTS & BOLTS

By WARREN BROWN
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINTS
The G37 Journey feels heavy and ponderous in tight city traffic. The automatic seat-belt extender for the front passenger's seat kept getting stuck, a problem that could discourage seat-belt use by the front-seat occupant.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING
It's Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. At urban travel speeds, it feels like any other fat luxury car. But at highway speeds, it completely changes personality and rips! Cruise control is a good idea in this one. Braking is excellent.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT
The G37 Journey is super-attractive in Infiniti's "vibrant red" paint, the color of the test car. But, given my assistant's experience, prospective buyers are hereby advised to consider a less "arresting" color.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT
The G37 Journey is a front-engine, rear-wheel-drive, mid-size, entry-level luxury coupe.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSION
All G37 models come with a 3.7-liter, 24-valve V-6 that develops 330 horsepower at 7,000 revolutions per minute and 270 foot-pounds of torque at 5,200 rpm. In the Journey, that engine is mated to a five-speed transmission that can be operated automatically or manually. The Sport 6MT gets a six-speed manual transmission.

CAPACITIES
There are seats for four; rear space is cramped. Luggage capacity is 7.4 cubic feet. The fuel tank holds 20 gallons of required premium unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE
I got 23 miles per gallon in highway driving.

SAFETY
The G37 Journey has front and rear ventilated disc brakes with antilock protection, electronic stability and traction control, and side and head air bags as standard equipment.

PRICE
The base price of the 2008 Infiniti G37 Journey coupe is $35,650. Estimated dealer's invoice price on that model without options is $33,000. Price as tested is $41,485, including $5,400 in options and a $765 destination charge. Estimated dealer's price as tested is $38,549. Prices sourced from Infiniti, Edmonds.com, and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE
The Infiniti G37 marks one of the best lineups of entry-level luxury sports coupes available in the United States. But "entry-level" does not mean "cheap." You will have to pay to play.

CRUISIN'

'64 Chevy SS

By GREG ZYLA
(C) 2008 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: Greg, I have a 1964 Chevy SS, and I wonder if you could give me a ballpark figure on its worth? It has a 350 V-8 (not original) with air conditioning, automatic transmission, a fairly good burgundy paint job with a few "spider webs," no rust, original SS spinner hubcaps, good chrome, original radio and good glass. The interior is in very good condition too. Also, if it were a four-speed, how much more would it be worth?—Don G., Gas City, Ind.

A: Don, although you don't mention if your SS is a Nova, Chevelle or Impala, I'm going to give prices for the Impala, as I believe you would have brought it to my attention if it were not a full-size Chevy.

First, just because your SS isn't 100 percent original, it still attracts a pretty good dollar. The 350 V-8 is a great engine, and a popular replacement for the original 327 V-8, as they are similar in design and performance. As to the four-speed, I'll admit it might be worth a little more with the stick, but not as much as you might think. Today, automatics are not looked on negatively like they used to be, so I'd say in your case, the four-speed might worth another $800 or so, tops.

As for value, anything in the neighborhood of a high of $10,000 to $13,000 would be close, with a low, quick-sale figure of $8,500 to $9,000. If the car were original, it might fetch $13,450 to $21,000 in its current form, but that's another story. If you catch a collector who doesn't care about 100 percent originality, you might easily get $13,000 for it, maybe more.

Finally, remember that prices listed in guides or in books aren't necessarily what a person receives for what's sitting in his garage. Good luck, and thanks for your question.

Write to Greg Zyla in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or send e-mail to gzyla@ptd.net.

Check car's certification

By PETER W. KING
SPECIAL TO NEWSDAY

You've decided your next used car will be "certified" in the hopes that if it is a lemon, at least you can get some aid. So all you have to do is look for a certified sticker on the windshield, right?

Look closer.

Cars.com says make sure the vehicle is "factory certified." This ensures the carmaker stands behind the vehicle. Beware of cars that are "dealer certified" because they could lack inspections or repairs.

Every carmaker has different factory-certified standards, so it can get confusing exactly what is covered. Visit edmunds.com/certified.html to compare the various factory-certified programs.

Life & Style

Max is top dog in PAWS' annual dog show

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

The island's 2nd annual dog show competition, dubbed the "Best of the Worst Dog Show," was held last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field, with the Best In Show award going to a 6-year-old boonie dog called Max from New Mexico.

"This is the first time that I entered Max in a contest and I'm so proud of him for winning the Best in Show," said Max's owner, Divya Sharma. "We have never joined any competitions before and this is the first time that Max has ever won a competition."

The 37 canine contestants vied

See MAX on Next Page

"Best Belly Dragger" winner Oreo, a 5-month-old Maltese terrier, wears a mwar-mwar during the show. Oreo also won third place for the "Most Disobedient Dog" category.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

"Most Like A Movie Star" category winner Momo, a 2 ½-year-old Maltese puppy, portrays "Elton John". Momo also won second place in the "Most Disobedient Dog" category.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Linda Arriola prepares her dog Jack, a 2-year-and-7-month-old Australian whippet greyhound who is competing in the "Most Like A Movie Star" category.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Koali, a 9-year-old golden retriever, as Puppyrazzi.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Adorable dogs parade for the show's finale.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Chloe, a tiny 3-month-old Maltese puppy, curiously looks at the camera while competing for the most disobedient dog category during the PAWS and Beautify CNMI!'s dog show, dubbed "The Best of the Worst Dog Show," at the CPA Airport Field Saturday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Poodle shows off his sprint to the judges.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

The reigning champion for Fattest Dog, Coco, parades with his owner. Coco is a 9 ½-year-old boonie dog.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

AWARDS LIST

THE FATTEST

Coco	4-month supply of Advantage Flea Control
Princess	40 lbs of dog food
Ruby	Dog toy and Adams Flea and Tick Shampoo

BEST GERIATRIC (OLDER DOG)

Princess	3-month supply of Frontline tick and flea control
Honey	40 lbs of dog food
Barbie	Kirkland dog biscuit in canister

BEST BELLY DRAGGER (SHORT DOGS)

Orea	3-month supply of Frontline tick and flea control
Abby	Training pads
Napu	Dog toy and Adams Flea and Tick Shampoo

THE MOST DISOBEDIENT

Tera	4-month supply of Advantage Flea Control or 3 month supply of Frontline Tick And Flea Control
Momo	T-Bone treats and dog behavior book
Orea	Retractable leash and dog toy

THE BOONIEST

Lulu	3-month supply of Frontline Tick and Flea Control
Maggie	40 lbs of dog food
Holmes	Dog toy and Adams Flea and Tick Shampoo

MOST LIKELY TO BE A MOVIE STAR

Momo	3-month supply of Frontline Tick and Flea Control
Holmes	Bag of dog food
Honey	Dog toy and Adams Flea and Tick Shampoo

BEST IN SHOW

Max	Pet pillow, Adams water-based flea and tick shampoo, dog toy

Dog lovers gather at the CPA Airport Field Saturday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Dog lovers parade their pets at the CPA Airport Field Saturday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

"Best Belly Dragger" winners Oreo, Abby and Napu.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Ruby, a golden retriever, won third place in the "Fattest Dog" category.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

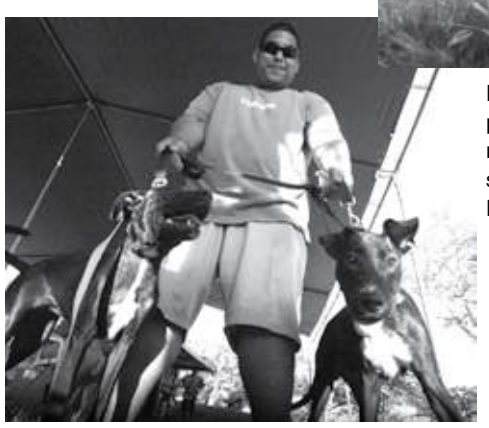
"Best in Show" winner Max, a 6-year-old boonie dog from New Mexico, poses with his owner, Divya Sharma.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Pet owners pose with their winning dogs shortly after the "The Best of the Worst Dog Show," awarding ceremony at the CPA Airport Field Saturday.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Emcy holds her dog Barbie, who won third place in the "Best Geriatric" category.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Princess won first place in the "Best Geriatric" category and second in the "Fattest Dog" category.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

"Best in Show" winner Max, a 6-year-old boonie dog from New Mexico.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



"Most Disobedient" dog winners Gera and Shawty with their owner Joe Cruz.
JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

MAX

From Page 1

for awards in seven categories: The Fattest, Best Geriatric, Best Belly Crawler, Most Disobedient, Booniest, Most Likely To Be A Movie Star, and Best in Show.

Coco, who is 9 and a half years old, swept the award for the fattest category, which he also won last year. "We found him on the streets when we first came here," said Coco's owner, Marcia Schultz.

It took the Pet Assistance and Welfare Services and Beautify CNMI! two months to prepare for the event.

"This year we had a phenomenal amount of community support," said PAWS president Katie Busenkell. "I saw people enjoy and have a great time with their pets. I am very happy with the outcome of the show."

Some of the sponsors for the event are Costco, Pacific Trading Company, Beautify CNMI, Pacific Telecommunications Inc., and private donors.

First Year Death Anniversary

We, the family of the late

†Domingo Castro Dela Cruz

invite all our families, relatives, and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the first year anniversary of his new life.

Daily Rosary & Mass will be offered at San Antonio Church beginning on Tuesday, June 10, 2008 . Rosary will start at 5:15pm and the Mass will follow at 6:00pm.

On the final day, Wednesday, June 18, 2008, Rosary will be prayed at 5:15pm followed by Eucharistic Celebration Mass at 6:00pm. Dinner will follow immediately after the Mass at the San Antonio Social Hall.

Thank You Yan Sen Dangkulo Na Si Yu'uss Ma'ase

Lourdes P. Dela Cruz and Children

In Celebration of Her New Life

Carmen Dolores Fejeran Soo

passed away in the grace of our Lord on June 06, 2008, at the age of 48.

In her eternal life she now joins her heavenly Father:

Parents: Isidro Tydingco Fejeran & Rosa Taman Maliti-Fejeran

Brother: Joseph Phillip Maliti Fejeran

Grandparents: Elias Olopai Maliti & Clara Somorang Taman Camacho
Jose Cruz Fejeran & Maria Tydingco Fejeran

Niece: Allison Colleen Nepaial

In-Law:

Father: Cho Nae Hwan
Mother: Lee Soon Myung
Sister: Cho Young Jo

She will always live in the hearts of her:

Husband: Cho Dae Soo

Children: Mari Soo, Joshua Sung Wook Soo, Ryan Sung Hyun Soo

Siblings & Spouse:

Elias M. & Bernie D. Fejeran; *Joseph, Emelaine, Elisa, Elias Jr.*

Juannet DLG. Fejeran & Joe Duenas; *Eddie John & Makiko, Cassandra & George (Bianca), Rose Marie & Shan (Makaily, Joenet), Joenie & Brian*

Pedro M. & Keisha N. Fejeran; *Awi, Carmelita, Estherlita, Iouana Rose*

Francisca M. Fejeran & Jeffrey Robinson; *Richard & Kimberly (Cheryl Mo'ika), Robert, Ray, Jonathan, Sharlyn, Renall*

Rosalina M. Fejeran & Ray Ruluked

Esther F. & Alfonis Sound; *Angel*

Clarissa M. Fejeran & Watson Sam; *Boleen, Lance Dale, Beverleen*

Isidora F. & Levaula Tasi; *Rex & Valencia (Siana Dorene), Leon & Gina (Tasiaeafe, Bruce Uitime), Seipepa, Uitime).*

She will always be remembered by numerous aunties, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces and friends.

On Saturday, June 14th, 2008, her remains will be escorted from CHC to San Vicente Church at 7:30 a.m. Viewing and last respects may be paid beginning at 8:30 a.m. Last Rosary will be recited at 10:30 a.m.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1:00 p.m. followed by Interment Service at Sanctuario Pax Memorial Garden in Kagman.

Please join us in prayers.
Si Yu'us Maase, Oloomway, Kamsahapnida, Thank You.

First Death Anniversary

We, the family of the late

†MICHIYO NAKANISHI MANALILI

invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the First Death Anniversary of our beloved's passing into eternal life.

Mass will be celebrated daily at Kristo Rai Church beginning Tuesday, June 10 through Wednesday, June 18 at 6:00 a.m.

On the last day, Wednesday, June 18, 2008, we invite all our relatives and friends to join us for breakfast following the 6:00 a.m. Mass at the Kristo Rai Social Hall.

Your presence and prayers during the Daily Masses are greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Maraming Salamat Po, Domo Arigato, and Si Yu'us Ma'ase!

Jorge M. Manalili and Family

Mom lived her life for love of friends and family,
Neither asking for nor wanting in return.
Her days became a sunlit homily,
With others' joy, her joy and main concern.
When we were ill, she also became sick;
When we were cut, she, too, began to bleed.
Of our oil lamp she was the wick,
Drawing her bright flame from our need.
Some say that such behavior's out of date:
That self-fulfillment is the way to grace.
But Mom, without much choice, then chose her fate,
Finding greater truth in an embrace.
She lives on in the sparkle in our eyes:
Laughing, quiet, gentle, loving, wise.

'Panda' beats Sandler with $60M weekend

By DAVID GERMAIN

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jack Black's Po the panda outgunned Adam Sandler's Zo the hairdresser. Black's cartoon comedy "Kung Fu Panda" pulled in $60 million in ticket sales to debut as the weekend's No. 1 movie, while Sandler's salon romp "You Don't Mess With the Zohan" opened in second place with $40 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The movies combined to carry Hollywood to a big weekend. The top 12 films took in $172.4 million, up 32 percent from the same weekend last year when "Ocean's Thirteen" led with a $36.1 million opening.

DreamWorks Animation's "Panda" and Sony's "Zohan" bumped off the previous weekend's leader, the Warner Bros. chick flick "Sex and the City," which slipped to fourth place with $21.3 million.

1. "Kung Fu Panda," $60 million.
2. "You Don't Mess With the Zohan," $40 million.
3. "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull," $22.8 million.
4. "Sex and the City," $21.3 million.
5. "The Strangers," $9.3 million.
6. "Iron Man," $7.5 million.
7. "The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian," $5.5 million.
8. "What Happens in Vegas," $3.4 million.
9. "Baby Mama," $780,000
10. "Made Of Honor," $775,000.

That was a steep 63 percent decline from its $56.8 million debut, but with a total of $99.3 million "Sex and the City" was just shy of $100 million hit status after only 10 days.

Paramount's "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" was No. 3 with $22.8 million, raising its three-week domestic total to $253 million.

Two strong weekends in a row enabled Hollywood to chip away at its box office deficit compared to 2007, a record year for revenues.

"This month offers the marketplace the opportunity to catch up with last year," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Media By Numbers. "Last year's June was not as strong as expected and this year's may be stronger, so we're definitely narrowing the gap in terms of revenue and attendance."

AP

This image released by Paramount Pictures shows the giant panda Po, voiced by Jack Black, and Master Shifu, voiced by Dustin Hoffman, in a scene from "Kung Fu Panda."

Receipts are at $3.8 billion this year, off 1.5 percent from 2007, while attendance is down 4.3 percent, according to Media By Numbers.

"Kung Fu Panda," distributed by Paramount for DreamWorks Animation, has Black providing the voice of the tubby Po, a panda in ancient China who becomes an unlikely martial-arts hero. The voice cast includes Angelina Jolie, Dustin Hoffman, Lucy Liu and Jackie Chan.

While the movie played well to families with young children, moviegoers 17 and older made up 71 percent of the audience, according to Paramount.

"There was strong appeal for this movie in the tweens, teens and general audience beyond the core families and kids," said Anne Globe, head of marketing for DreamWorks. "Certainly, families and kids also showed up in droves, but we really have the opportunity to play as a broad comedy, too."

"Kung Fu Panda" had the best opening ever for a non-sequel cartoon flick from DreamWorks, topping such hits as "Shark Tale" and "Madagascar." Among DreamWorks animated releases, only the second and third "Shrek" movies did better.

"You Don't Mess With the Zohan" features Sandler as an Israeli commando who fakes his death so he can live out his dream to become a hair stylist in New York City. The movie came in on par with other comedies from Sandler, whose top four past openings range from "The Longest Yard" at $47.6 million to "Click" at $40 million.

"He's just in his zone. He's incredibly consistent," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution for Sony. "He's the guy that always is going to make you laugh."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

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The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian
Fri and Sat 1:20 4:10 7:10 10:05
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:10
Mon - Thurs 1:20 4:10 7:10
Peter Dinklage, Liam Neeson
Adventure, Fantasy • Rated PG

Synopsis
One year later, the Kings and Queens of Narnia find themselves back in that faraway wondrous realm, only to discover that more than 1,300 years have passed in Narnian time. During their absence, the Golden Age of Narnia has become extinct and Narnia has been conquered by the Telmarines and is now under the control of the evil King Miraz, who rules the land without mercy. The four children will soon meet a curious new character: Narnia's rightful heir to the throne, the young Prince Caspian, who has been forced into hiding, as his uncle Miraz plots to kill him in order to place his own newborn son on the throne.

Kung Fu Panda
Fri and Sat 1:05 4:20 7:30 9:30
Sunday 1:05 4:20 7:30
Mon - Thurs 1:05 4:20 7:30
Jack Black (v), Dustin Hoffman (v)
Comedy, Action, Animation • Rated PG

You Don't Mess with the Zohan
Fri and Sat 1:25 4:30 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:05
Mon - Thurs 1:25 4:30 7:05
Adam Sandler, Rob Schneider
Action, Comedy • Rated PG-13

★ ★ ★

Sex and The City
Fri and Sat 1:15 4:15 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:00
Mon - Thurs 1:15 4:15 7:00
Sarah Jessica Parker, Kim Cattrall
Comedy, Romance • Rated R

Synopsis
Set in the desert Southwest in 1957—at the height of the Cold War—ndy and his sidekick Mac have barely escaped a close scrape with nefarious Soviet agents on a remote airfield. Now, Professor Jones has returned home to Marshall College—only to find things have gone from bad to worse. His close friend and dean of the college explains that Indy's recent activities have made him the object of suspicion, and that the government has put pressure on the university to fire him.

Indiana Jones: Kingdom of the Crystal Skull
Fri and Sat 1:30 4:25 7:15 10:00
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:15
Mon - Thurs 1:30 4:25 7:15
Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchett
Action Adventure • Rated PG-13

What Happens in Vegas
Fri and Sat @ 4:05 @ 9:50
Sunday @ 4:05 @
Mon - Thurs @ 4:05 @
Cameron Diaz, Ashton Kutcher
Romantic Comedy • Rated PG-13

Forbidden Kingdom
Fri and Sat 1:10 @ 7:20 @
Sunday 1:10 @ 7:20
Mon - Thurs 1:10 @ 7:20
Jet Li, Jackie Chan
Action Adventure • Rated PG-13

Iron Man
Fri and Sat 1:00 4:00 7:25 9:55
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:25
Mon - Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:25
Robert Downey Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow
Action Adventure • Rated PG-13

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Achatz takes top chef award at food 'Oscars'

By J.M. HIRSCH
AP FOOD EDITOR

NEW YORK (AP)—A Chicago chef known for his ethereal cooking—as well as the tongue cancer that nearly ended his life—was named the nation's top chef Sunday by the James Beard Foundation.

The award marked another victory in a tumultuous year for Grant Achatz, who last July was diagnosed with Stage 4 tongue cancer, underwent aggressive treatment to save his life and sense of taste, and by December was cancer free.

Achatz told the crowd of food world elite gathered for the awards he credits lessons learned when he was 22 and working at The French Laundry in Yountville, Calif., with teaching him not just how to cook, but also how to survive.

Those lessons were going to "make me a good cook and ultimately a great chef. What I didn't know was that it was actually going to save my life," he said.

"That drive, that tenacity, that dedication that I took in at that restaurant ... it became a part of who I am 12 years later and helped me get through a pretty ridiculous battle." Achatz' cooking at his 3-year-old restaurant, Alinea, has come to define the so-called molecular gastronomy movement, an approach to eating about as similar to home cooking as particle physics is to a junior chemistry set.

AP

Chef Grant Achatz, of Alinea restaurant in Chicago, poses for a photo after being named Outstanding Chef at the 2008 James Beard Foundation Awards, Sunday, June 8, 2008, at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center in New York.

His ultramodern style has crafted menus that read like the shopping list of a culinary mad scientist, with items such as "black truffle explosion, romaine, parmesan" and "transparency of raspberry, rose petal, yogurt."

Achatz thanked the many chefs in the crowd for their offers to help during his battle with cancer.

"I didn't let any of them come to the restaurant and cook as they suggested. I couldn't do that to the cooks," he said with a laugh.

Alinea was named the nation's top restaurant by Gourmet magazine in 2006, and Achatz previously won Beard awards for rising star chef in 2002 and 2003, and for best chef in the Great Lakes region last year.

The James Beard awards are known as the Oscars of the food world, and honor those who follow in the footsteps of Beard, considered the dean of American cooking when he died in 1985.

Business partners Mario Batali and Joe Bastianich also were honored at Sunday's ceremony as the nation's top restaurateurs. They oversee a cadre of restaurants, including New York's Babbo Ristorante e Enoteca and Del Posto.

New York's Gramercy Tavern was named the nation's Outstanding Restaurant.

Gramercy Tavern, which since opening in 1994 has been nominated for and received numerous Beard Awards and cemented the careers of culinary luminaries such as Tom Colicchio, is known for its contemporary American cuisine.

"If you can judge a restaurant based on the quality of its alumni, I don't think there's a richer restaurant that I could have dreamed of being a part of," said owner Danny Meyer.

Gavin Kaysen of New York's Cafe Boulud was named Rising Star Chef, while the award for Outstanding New Restaurant went to Michel Richard's Central Michel Richard in Washington. Richard was named Outstanding Chef by the foundation last year.

Young filmmakers get student Oscars

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Eleven college students received cash prizes and trophies Saturday for short films competing in the 35th annual Student Academy Awards.

The gold medal prize for narrative films went to Rajeev Dassani of the University of Southern California for the film "A Day's Work."

The top prize for animation was presented to Nicole Mitchell of the California Institute of the Arts for "Zoologic"; the documentary winner was Laura Waters Hinson of American University for "As We Forgive."

The prizes are presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which hands out the Oscars. Winners get $5,000 for gold medals, $3,000 for silver medals and $2,000 for bronze.

Student awards were presented by Jason Reitman, director of 2007 best-picture nominee "Juno"; cinematographer Caleb Deschanel; Emmy-winning director Todd Holland; and academy president Sid Ganis.

Established in 1972, the Student Academy Awards are intended to support young filmmakers. Past winners include Spike Lee, Robert Zemeckis, John Lasseter and Trey Parker.

WINNERS LIST

Narrative:
- Gold Medal: "A Day's Work," Rajeev Dassani, University of Southern California.
- Silver Medal: "The State of Sunshine," Z. Eric Yang, Florida State University.
- Bronze Medal: "Pitstop," Melanie McGraw, University of Southern California.

Animation:
- Gold Medal: "Zoologic," Nicole Mitchell, California Institute of the Arts.
- Silver Medal: "Simulacra," Tatchapon Lertwirojkul, The School of Visual Arts, New York.
- Bronze Medal: "The Visionary," Evan Mayfield, Ringling College of Art and Design, Florida.

Documentary:
- Gold Medal: "As We Forgive," Laura Waters Hinson, American University, Washington, D.C.
- Silver Medal: "Unattached," J.J. Adler, Columbia University.
- Bronze Medal: "If a Body Meet a Body," Brian Davis, University of Southern California.

Alternative:
- Gold Medal: "Viola: The Traveling Rooms of a Little Giant," Shih-Ting Hung, University of Southern California.
- Silver Medal: "Circles of Confusion," Phoebe Tooke, San Francisco State University.

Foreign Film ($1,000 prize):
"On the Line (Auf der Strecke)," Reto Caffi, Academy of Media Arts, Cologne, Germany

Rapper Warren G arrested on drug-related charge

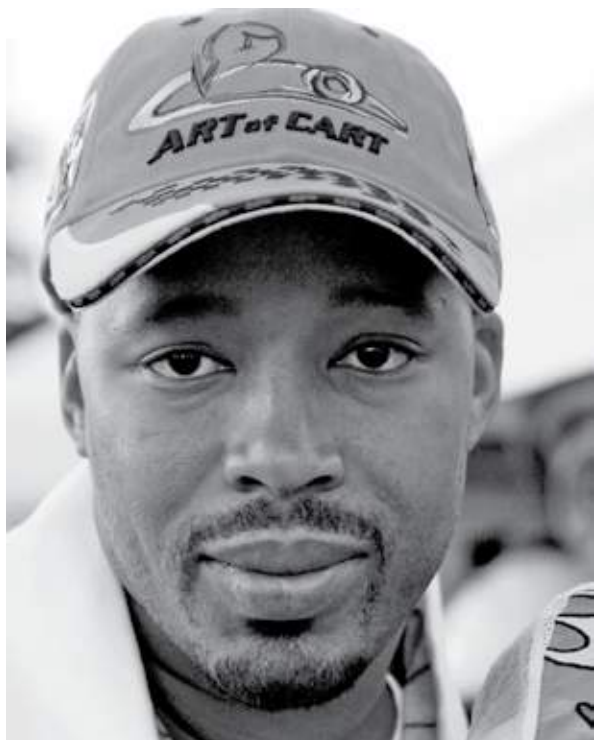
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Warren G has been arrested on a drug charge after police pulled over the car he was riding in.

Police say the 35-year-old rapper was arrested early Sunday after being pulled over for a red light violation. Officer Karen Smith says marijuana was found in the vehicle.

The rapper's real name is Warren Griffin III. Both he and the driver were booked on suspicion of possessing a controlled substance.

They each posted $20,000 bail and were released. A phone message left for Griffin's agent, Al Hassas, was not immediately returned Sunday.

Warren G was nominated for a Grammy in 1995. He was arrested in 1996 for carrying a loaded assault weapon in his truck.



AP

In this Nov. 2005 file photo, singer Warren Griffin III, Warren G poses for a photo at the Art of Cart, a race sponsored by Red Bull, in Long Beach, Calif.

'Brokeback Mountain' to premiere as opera in 2013

NEW YORK (AP) -- The New York City Opera commissioned Charles Wuorinen to compose an opera based on "Brokeback Mountain," the 1997 short story by Annie Proulx that became the basis for a 2005 movie that won three Academy Awards.

The opera is scheduled to premiere in spring 2013, City Opera said Sunday. It will be City Opera's second Wuorinen premiere, following "Haroun and the Sea of Stories," which was based on a Salman Rushdie novel and opened in October 2004.

"Ever since encountering Annie Proulx's extraordinary story I have wanted to make an opera on it, and it gives me great joy that Gerard Mortier and New York City Opera have given me the opportunity to do so," Wuorinen said in a statement.

Kim Cattrall puts sex on the menu at food awards

AP

Awards ceremony host Kim Cattrall and her boyfriend, Canadian chef Alan Wyse, pose after the 2008 James Beard Foundation Awards, Sunday, June 8, 2008 at Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center in New York. The awards recognize culinary professionals for excellence and achievement in their field.

By J.M. HIRSCH
AP FOOD EDITOR

NEW YORK (AP) -- Is there anything sexier than food?

It's probably no surprise that for Kim Cattrall it's the people who make it.

Known for her vixen character, Samantha, in "Sex and the City," Cattrall put sex talk on the menu while hosting Sunday's James Beard Foundation awards, often called the "Oscars" of the food world.

Cattrall opened the ceremony talking about her own love of cooking, then asked co-host and celebrity chef Bobby Flay what has more sex appeal than food. A breath later, she offered her own answer.

"Maybe what's sexier is the chefs who are always cooking up something new and exciting," she cooed.

Cattrall then quickly challenged Flay to a "throwdown" in the kitchen, to which Flay said: "Don't worry. I'll be gentle."

"Sex and the City" grossed $21.3 million this weekend, earning $99.3 million total after only 10 days in theaters. The movie is based on the HBO television series.

BOLLYWOOD OSCARS AP

Indian actress Dia Mizra arrives on the green carpet during the International India Film Academy event known as the "Bollywood Oscars" a glitzy awards ceremony expected to attract 600 million television viewers, in Bangkok on Sunday June 8 2008.

Obituary photos can be a window into the past

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I just read the letter from the reader (April 7) who was bothered by the use of youthful pictures of the deceased in obituaries. I have heard that criticism before, and it baffles me. People aren't just who they were at 84, the age when they passed.

What offends ME are obituaries that describe the person as "lovingly tending her tomatoes" or "a bingo devotee." Why aren't they described as the sum total of who they were in each stage of their lives?

All of us make a difference in the world each day because of our presence. And it's our whole lives that do it, not just the most recent few years. There are so many things on this Earth to criticize. A photograph that was chosen for someone's obituary should not be one of them.

DONNA IN CONCORD, N.H.

DEAR DONNA: I agree. However, readers' views on this subject were varied. As one person pointed out, your obituary photo may be "the only time you get your youth back." Read on:

I discussed "Just Call Me Snapshot's" letter with my mother. She suggested that maybe the people in those pictures were the picture-takers in the family. I know I rarely appear in family photos because I am the one behind the camera. Perhaps a more recent photograph of the loved one doesn't exist!

SUSAN IN BLOOMINGDALE, GA.

DEAR ABBY: The use of photos of the deceased in their prime is nothing new. Look at the death masks and statues from ancient Egypt. No one was depicted ravaged by time or illness.

ROBERT FROM COLUMBUS, MONT.

DEAR ABBY: Your reply to "Snapshot" was that this is the way for a loved one to be remembered in his or her prime. However, I have a more correct -- and cynical -- answer. It's a larger source of income for the newspaper.

The fees for obituaries are exorbitant. A simple Sunday announcement can run more than $200. The "helpful" editors have all kinds of stock phrases they offer that increase the size of the ad -- and that's exactly what it is -- and bump up the cost. Grieving families often don't realize the cost until the bill arrives. Like "Snapshot," I find it ghoulish, just another way to soak the grief-stricken.

PAID THE BILL, ST. LOUIS

DEAR ABBY: The reader who objected to people using old photos instead of recent ones in obituaries is obviously still young. When she looks at me she sees the white hair, the sagging skin and other signs of aging, but my image of myself is still youthful, dark-haired and fit. I would like to use a younger picture for my obituary -- it's who I am.

SOMETIMES SHOCKED AT THE MIRROR

DEAR ABBY: The writer of that letter overlooks the 20-year-old photos of LIVING people that we see so often in print media. These people have also aged (as we all do), and frankly, the use of an outdated picture is an insult to our intelligence. I see as pure fraud putting forth an image that is not truthful. There oughta be a law.

CANDID PHOTOGRAPHER IN THE PRESENT

DEAR ABBY: Wait a minute. I appreciate those old photos. They give me a glimpse into people's lives -- who they were, and who they became. It has also given me a sense of my own mortality. Those images remind me that I, too, am marching on, and I should spend time wisely and make every day count.

ANOTHER PICTURE IN THE PAPER

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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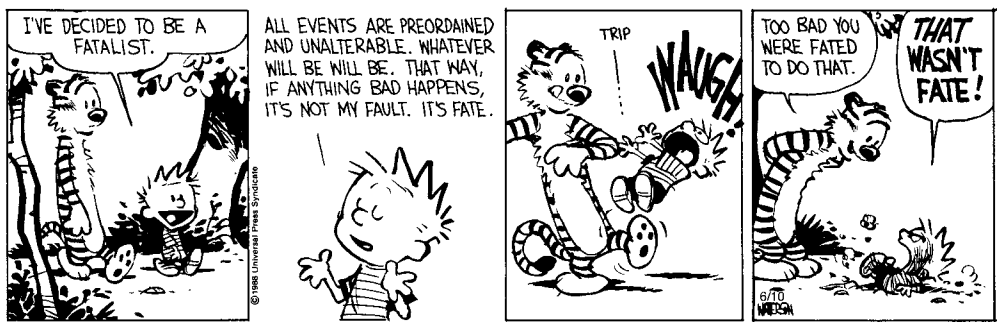
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'VE DECIDED TO BE A FATALIST.
ALL EVENTS ARE PREORDAINED AND UNALTERABLE. WHATEVER WILL BE WILL BE. THAT WAY, IF ANYTHING BAD HAPPENS, IT'S NOT MY FAULT. IT'S FATE.
TRIP
WAUGH
TOO BAD YOU WERE FATED TO DO THAT.
THAT WASN'T FATE!
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By Jim Davis

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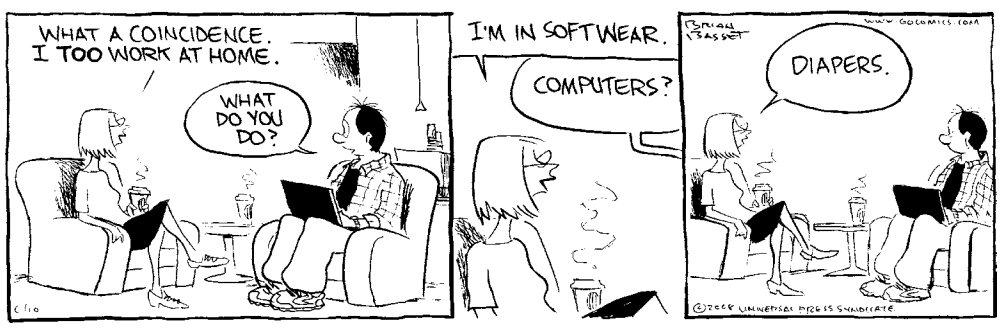
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

RING
Hello. Your phone call is very important to us. Please hold.
WHO IS THAT?
I DON'T KNOW.
Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
2008 ©

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

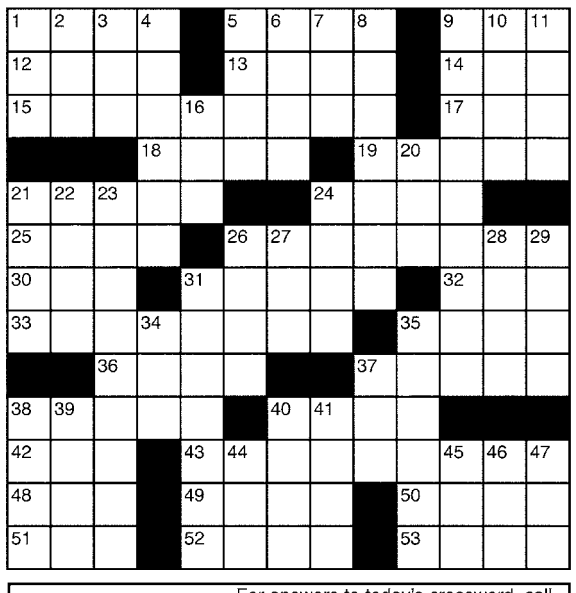
ACROSS
1 Desertlike
5 Mid-March date
9 Frat-party need
12 Humdinger
13 Small salamander
14 Aye opponent
15 Quasimodo's place
17 Blunder
18 Big Apple sch.
19 Not merely plump
21 Square-dance group
24 "In the Valley of —"
25 Shopping center
26 Hotel staffers
30 A Gershwin
31 Geometry finds
32 Legislation
33 "Think outside the bun" restaurant
35 Greek cheese
36 Ancient Roman receptacle
37 Domineering
38 Picasso or Casals
40 Indian wrap
42 Historic time
43 Sound familiar
48 Zero
49 Sad
50 "Star Wars" princess
51 Bando of baseball
52 Weeps loudly
53 Scratches (out)

DOWN
1 Priestly garment
2 Regret
3 Sick
4 Pleasing, as tones
5 Part of the loop
6 Like the morning lawn
7 Ram's mate
8 Ambles
9 Open spaces under desks
10 Dumbo's "wings"
11 Move in a circle
16 Boy king of Egypt
20 Scrooge's expletive
21 Leave out
22 "Fame" singer Irene
23 Mouse part
24 Airline of Israel
26 Author Harte
27 Slithery one
28 Margarine servings
29 Vacillate
31 Soaks up
34 Lubricant
35 Shortcoming
37 Shape shifter?
38 Nerd-pack contents
39 Met melody
40 Ignore
41 A very long time
44 Worldwide workers' org.
45 "A mouse!"
46 False story
47 Opener at Vegas?

Solution time: 21 mins.

L	A	M	A	■	L	A	W	■	F	L	A	W
O	V	E	R	R	U	L	E	■	L	A	N	E
T	E	N	T	A	C	L	E	■	O	R	T	S
■	■	■	F	R	Y	■	K	U	W	A	I	T
U	N	D	U	E	■	G	E	N	E	■	■	■
R	E	A	L	■	T	E	N	D	R	I	L	■
N	A	M	■	O	U	T	D	O	■	R	O	B
■	T	E	N	A	N	T	S	■	V	I	L	E
■	■	■	E	R	G	O	■	A	I	S	L	E
A	C	C	E	S	S	■	I	N	N	■	■	■
L	A	R	D	■	T	E	N	N	Y	S	O	N
O	R	A	L	■	E	S	C	A	L	A	D	E
E	R	B	E	■	N	T	H	■	S	T	E	W

Yesterday's answer 6-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Joey Zimmerman, 22; Leelee Sobieski, 25; Hoku Ho, 27; Elizabeth Hurley, 43

Happy Birthday: Your emotions will get you into trouble this year. Erratic behavior will lead to mistakes. Control your responses and focus on mastering a skill or finding ways to make more money. As the year goes by, you can see positive results from your hard work. Your numbers are 2, 12, 15, 24, 33, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't second-guess what you should do in the case of personal or medical problems. Take care of matters quickly and refuse to let someone make decisions for you. A change may be necessary. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): It will be an education for you to deal with individuals who are entrepreneurial or carefree about money and business. Let the experience others have be your inspiration for doing something you've longed to do. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Slow down and think before you take action. You may have some wonderful ideas but, if they aren't within your budget, rethink your strategy. A love problem will crop up if you haven't been honest about how you feel. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): The extras you can offer will help you close a deal you are working on. Don't be afraid of change—if you welcome it, you will be further ahead in the end. Someone may try to confuse you with fast talk. Make up your own mind. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Your contributions will lead to a serious proposal. There is a profit to be made for doing something you feel passionate about. Move forward quickly with confidence and you can delegate and maintain control. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Getting all worked up over nothing will be your downfall. You must maintain a state of calm if you want others to agree with you. Show your playful side but accept an opportunity that surfaces through someone you meet at an activity or event. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You need time out to think things over. Don't leap into something without knowing exactly what you are getting or where you are heading. Play it safe with a wait-and-see approach, especially with business or an authoritative group or organization. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put heart and soul into what you are doing and you will entice others to help you along. Your dedication, precision and detail will convince others you know what you are doing. Don't expect to reap the financial rewards just yet. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): It's important to give a good impression, so do your homework and have everything laid out simply. Be open and bold and others will come on board. Plan to go the distance in a very short period of time. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't let love cost you. Children, lovers or peers may lean on you financially if you let them. You can't pay for others' mistakes. A sudden change in your financial position is apparent if you take advantage of an opportunity that presents itself. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A change at home may be daunting at first but, in the end, it will be beneficial. Be open to the possibility of doing things differently. It may be time to move on and experience new people, places and things. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Emotions will mount if you have forgotten or refused to do something requested by a friend or relative. Make an attempt to meet halfway on any demands being put on you. Negotiate what will be fair and work to benefit everyone involved. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, sensitive and caring. You are open, insightful and capable of great success. You thrive on change and will see that every little detail is taken care of.

Eugenia's Web sites: **astroadvice.com** *for fun,* **eugenialast.com** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		2	3				4	
	8			5	1	2		
7				8				
5			8					
	4	7		2		6	9	
					9			4
				3				8
		5	2	1			6	
	9				4	7		

Difficulty Level ★★ 6/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

2	4	8	7	1	9	6	3	5
1	9	6	3	5	8	7	2	4
3	7	5	6	4	2	8	9	1
8	3	4	9	6	1	5	7	2
9	1	2	5	7	3	4	8	6
6	5	7	8	2	4	9	1	3
7	2	1	4	9	5	3	6	8
4	8	9	1	3	6	2	5	7
5	6	3	2	8	7	1	4	9

Difficulty Level ★ 6/09

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

REPAIRING A FLAT TIRE **Solution: 7 letters**

G	A	U	G	E	R	U	T	C	N	U	P	A	R	K
T	R	I	E	T	A	R	A	P	E	S	R	T	W	N
N	N	O	R	E	D	L	U	O	H	S	E	A	H	R
E	E	L	U	G	S	P	I	R	T	T	S	E	E	O
M	O	V	L	N	(K)	(A)	(E)	(L)	A	D	S	H	E	W
E	B	A	I	U	D	D	F	R	E	A	U	J	L	Y
V	J	N	G	T	S	N	T	D	N	O	R	A	W	L
A	E	D	H	S	O	E	W	E	R	R	E	C	E	D
P	C	A	T	E	N	M	T	O	E	I	H	K	R	I
I	T	L	S	E	S	H	O	S	D	A	V	A	C	P
P	E	I	P	H	G	O	T	T	N	K	Z	I	S	A
E	S	S	L	I	S	O	P	G	U	A	A	L	N	R
B	I	M	T	T	R	A	E	X	H	A	A	E	U	G
U	A	T	D	E	T	A	L	F	E	D	A	E	R	T
T	R	A	F	F	I	C	E	S	D	E	T	L	O	B

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Automotive, Bolted, Breakdown, Change, Deflated, Driving, Expose, Gauge, Ground, Hazard, Heat, Jack, Leak, Lights, Lugs, Nuts, Object, Park, Pavement, Penetrate, Pipe, Pressure, Puncture, Raise, Rapidly, Restore, Rips, Road, Separate, Shoulder, Shreds, Slash, Tighten, Tilt, Traffic, Tread, Tube, Underneath, Unscrew, Vandalism, Wheel, Worn

Yesterday's Answer: Commodity

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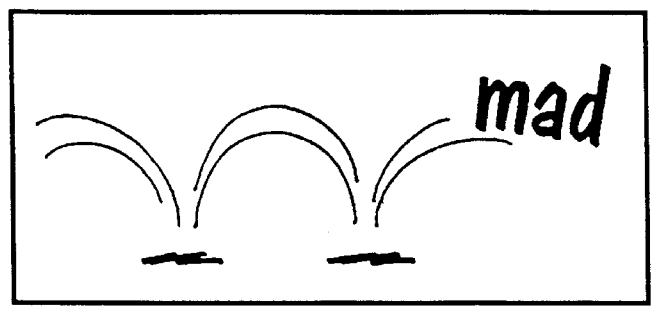

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Celtics hold off Lakers 108-102, take 2-0 lead

BOSTON (AP)—The Boston Celtics left the comforts of home exalted and exhausted, halfway to hoisting a 17th NBA championship banner.

They're up 2-0 in the NBA finals.

But they needed some of their leprechaun's luck to get there.

Paul Pierce, darting around the parquet floor with ease, scored 28 points, unknown Leon Powe added 21 and the Celtics held off a remarkable rally by Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers for a 108-102 win Sunday night in Game 2 of these trip-down-memory-lane finals.

The Celtics had to work every second to get the win.

Up by 24 points in the fourth quarter, they nearly blew it.

"We're happy because we won, but we definitely learned a lesson," Pierce said.

The Lakers trailed 95-71 with less than 8 minutes to go, but used a 31-9 run to pull to 104-102 on two free throws by Bryant with 38.4 seconds left. Pierce, though, made two free throws, then blocked a 3-pointer by Sasha Vujacic, and James Posey made two free throws with 12.6 seconds left to ice it for Boston.

"We've got to play through the game for 48 minutes, and I didn't think we did that," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said. "I thought we got cute when we got the lead."

The Lakers, who dropped 41 points on the league's defensive team in the final 12 minutes, simply ran out of time.

"It's something that we can take from," Bryant said of the furious but failed comeback. "We played with a sense of desperation and aggression. I think that's something to take home and learn from."

Boston enjoyed a huge free-throw advantage, going 27-for-38 from the foul line, while the Lakers were just 10-for-10.

The whistles were one-sided.

"I didn't notice," Bryant said, cracking a smile.

Pierce wasn't slowed by a sprained right knee suffered in the series opener, when he was carried from the court and plopped into a wheelchair. The Boston captain paced the Celtics, who are back in the finals for the first since 1987, when Larry Bird was the main man and gasoline cost 91 cents per gallon.

As usual, Boston's Big Three—Pierce, Ray Allen (17 points) and Kevin Garnett (17)—were the ringleaders but Powe, a second-year reserve had the game of his career, adding his 21 points in 15 minutes that may make him a Celtics fan-favorite for life.

Powe, who played a total of 68 seconds during one stretch of 13 games during the season, scored six points to close a 15-2 run ending the third quarter that gave the Celtics a 22-point lead. The quick burst had the Lakers California dreaming. At one point in the fourth quarter, Boston fans discarded the familiar chants of "Beat L.A." for cries of "Le-on Powe!"

"He was terrific," Celtics coach Doc Rivers said.

Rajon Rondo had a career-high 16 assists and Garnett added 14 rebounds for the Celtics, back in the finals for the first time since 1987.

Game 3 is Tuesday night at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, where the Lakers are 8-0 in the postseason and have won 14 in a row at home since March 28. Bryant had better hope the rims there are a little kinder than the ones in TD Banknorth Garden.

Bryant, who pledged to bounce back from a sub-par Game 1, scored 30 points—13 in the fourth—on 11-of-23 shooting. In four losses to Boston this season, Bryant is just 35-of-93 from the field and can't seem to get the same easy looks he enjoys against every other team.

Pau Gasol had 17 points and 10 rebounds for the Lakers, who were so far down in the fourth that many of their purple-and-gold clad fans who came to cheer them on, headed toward the exits and maybe to Logan Airport for the trip out West.

But Bryant brought them back—almost all the way.

His 3-pointer made it 102-91 and then the self-proclaimed "Black Mamba" slithered down the lane for two quick baskets that got the Lakers within 104-95. The Celtics, meanwhile, began to stand around on offense, thinking the game was in hand.

It was anything but.

After Vujacic hit a 3-pointer, Vladimir Radmanovic made a steal and dunk to make it 104-100 and Celtics fans, who had been dancing moments earlier, began to panic. None of Boston's players seemed to want the ball as it moved around like a hot potato before Rondo missed a jumper with 44 seconds left.

Bryant's free throws brought Los Angeles to 104-102 before Pierce slashed down the lane and got fouled by Derek Fisher. As a few of his teammates locked arms on the bench like a college team trying to advance in March, Pierce knocked down both foul shots. Then, on defense, he got just enough of Vujacic's shot from the left wing with 14 seconds left.

Posey was fouled on the play and calmly made his two free throws. The Lakers rushed the ball down but missed on a couple jumpers, and when the final horn sounded, a collective sigh of relief rushed through the exits as the Celtics and their fans left the building confident, if not shaken.

"We're not settling on a 2-0 lead," Garnett said. "We want to go out there and win two games in L.A."

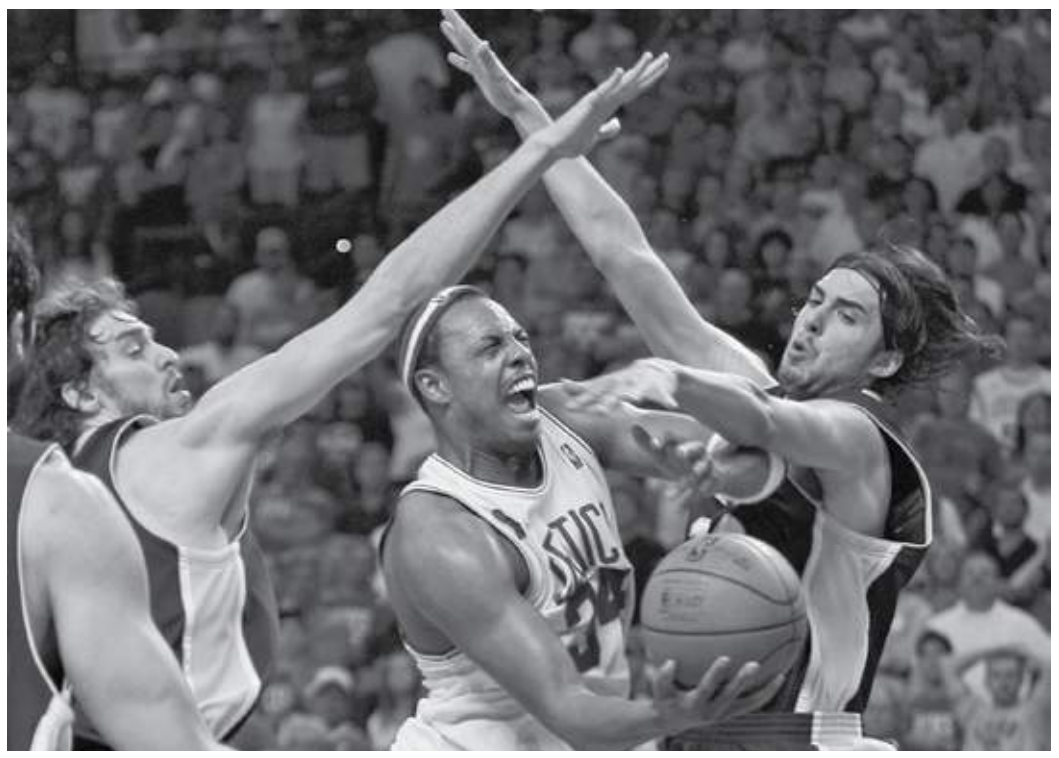
Called "unstoppable" by Lakers coach Phil Jackson, Bryant got off to another slow start. He missed his first two shots, one an uncontested layup underneath and was unable to get the looks he wanted as the Celtics followed the MVP around like a pack of hungry wolves on the hunt.

Bryant was just 1-of-4 from the floor when he was called for pushing off on Allen—his second personal foul—and spent the final 1:59 of the opening period a few seats away from Jackson. Soon, Bryant was joined by Lamar Odom and Jackson was forced to give his reserves extended early minutes.

They weren't good ones.

The Lakers' heralded bench bunch struggled, and the Celtics took advantage. Trailing by two after one, Boston opened the second quarter with a 10-0 run, capped by Pierce's 3-pointer. As bad as Los Angeles was playing, the Lakers hung around and closed within 41-37 on Gasol's three-point play.

But Pierce knocked down another 3, Allen followed with one of his own and the Celtics closed the half with a 13-5 burst to open a 54-42 halftime lead.



AP

Boston Celtics' Paul Pierce, center, tries to scoop a shot between Los Angeles Lakers' Pau Gasol, left, from Spain, and Sasha Vujacic, from Slovenia, in the fourth quarter of Game 2 of the NBA basketball finals Sunday, June 8, 2008, in Boston.

No reunion for Bulls and Dough Collins

CHICAGO (AP)—Doug Collins and the Chicago Bulls won't be reuniting.

Concerned that a second tenure as the Bulls' coach would spoil their friendship, Collins told chairman Jerry Reinsdorf to look elsewhere during a phone conversation on Friday.

"I called Jerry this afternoon and said, 'Let's move forward and make sure we stay the friends that we have been for 25 years,'" said Collins, who coached Chicago from 1986-89. "It had to be a home run, and both of us had a little angst over it. So we both agreed it wasn't the best to keep going this way."

The Chicago Tribune initially reported Collins was out of the running on its Web site Friday afternoon.

"I didn't know Red Auerbach real well," Reinsdorf said. "But Doug is the brightest basketball mind that I knew. He's brilliant. The man is brilliant."

But he won't be back on the Bulls' sideline.

Reinsdorf acknowledged concerns about bringing back his friend but said the decision to break off talks was more Collins' than his.

"My mother always used to tell me don't be in business with friends and relatives," Reinsdorf said. "We've become so close over the years, I really wasn't sure it was good idea for him. But I was pretty much willing to go along with it, but I just wanted to be sure if this is what he really wanted to do. And so I just said, `Take some time let's think about it.'"

Collins has a 332-287 overall record and was 137-109 with the Bulls when a young Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen couldn't get past the Detroit Pistons.

Collins had initially indicated he was not interested in returning to the sideline. That changed after the Bulls won the draft lottery, although Reinsdorf said Collins threw his name into the mix because he thought the search "really didn't look that promising."

"So, he called and said I'll coach the team," Reinsdorf said. "So we met and we talked about it."

The sides acknowledged last week having discussions and said there would be more talks once Collins' broadcast duties with TNT ended. That happened when the Los Angeles Lakers eliminated the San Antonio Spurs in the Western Conference finals.

While Reinsdorf and Collins mulled a reunion, Paxson brought in Sacramento assistant Chuck Person and former Minnesota Timberwolves coach Dwane Casey for second interviews. Jazz assistant Tyrone Corbin and Rockets assistant Elston Turner are also in the running, according to the Tribune, while the Chicago Sun-Times reported on its Web site that Phoenix Suns assistant general manager Vinny Del Negro was in town to interview. Casey is the only one with head coaching experience.

After reaching the second round of the playoffs last year, Chicago expected to contend for the Eastern Conference championship. Instead, the Bulls went from 49 wins to 49 losses.

Coach Scott Skiles got fired in December, and the Bulls let interim coach Jim Boylan go at the end of the season.

Chicago was prepared to make Mike D'Antoni an offer last month, only to see him take the New York Knicks job before hearing the Bulls' pitch. Now, another high-profile candidate is out of the running. And a search that just passed the seven-week mark continues.

"We weren't in any rush," Reinsdorf said. "It's important we make the right decision. It hasn't been that long."

Terry Porter to replace D'Antoni as Suns coach

PHOENIX (AP)—Terry Porter will be the Phoenix Suns' next coach, ending the club's monthlong search for a successor to Mike D'Antoni.

Phoenix general manager Steve Kerr said Saturday he had agreed to terms with Porter, who was an assistant with the Detroit Pistons.

The 45-year-old Porter played in the NBA for 17 seasons and teamed with Kerr in San Antonio.

"He's got a great combination of leadership skills," Kerr said in a telephone interview. "He's a great communicator. And his coaching experience, two years as a head coach, is important to me. The fact that he's sat in that chair, that was a key factor. He's very tough-minded."

Porter is expected to sign a three-year deal worth about $7 million, and he likely will be introduced at a news conference early next week. His hiring was first reported by ESPN.

"I'm very excited," Porter said in a telephone interview. "I'm looking forward to getting started."

Porter emerged from an extensive list of candidates interviewed by the Suns. Last week, Kerr said the list had been pared to four—Porter and assistants Elston Turner of Houston, Tyrone Corbin of Utah and Mike Budenholzer of San Antonio.

"We interviewed some great candidates, and we wanted to take our time and make sure we made the right choice," Kerr said. "He's the right guy, and I'm glad to have him on board."

Porter was the only one of the final four with head coaching experience, leading the Milwaukee Bucks. He went 71-93 (.433) from 2003-05, and the Bucks made the playoffs in his first year.

"I knew obviously I had a strong resume," Porter said.

Porter will become the Suns' seventh coach since 1993, when they made their last NBA Finals appearance.

Porter inherits a talented but aging roster that features former MVPs Steve Nash and Shaquille O'Neal, along one of the league's best front-line players in Amare Stoudemire.

The Suns job opened up last month when D'Antoni left to sign with the New York Knicks. Under D'Antoni, the Suns played an entertaining, uptempo style and had four highly successful regular seasons. But the team never made it past the conference finals.

After the Suns were eliminated in the first round by San Antonio this year, D'Antoni decided to leave rather than make some changes that Kerr reportedly wanted, including more emphasis on defense.

Once D'Antoni left, Kerr embarked on a deliberate national search for a successor, working with owner Robert Sarver and vice president for basketball operations David Griffin.

From the start, Porter was viewed as a front-runner because of his long relationship with Kerr. They played together in San Antonio from 1999-2001,

Porter, a native of Milwaukee, graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

Leonard wins St. Jude on 2nd playoff hole

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Justin Leonard thought he won on the final hole of regulation only to see his ball go left of the cup. Then he was a foot away from victory on the first playoff hole.

Luckily, his ball rolled one last turn into the cup on the next hole.

Leonard won the Stanford St. Jude Championship in a playoff Sunday, holing a 19-foot birdie putt on the second extra hole to beat Masters champion Trevor Immelman and Robert Allenby.

Leonard blew a one-stroke lead with two holes left to drop into the playoff, but won on the 150-yard, par-3 11th when Immelman pushed his birdie attempt past the hole.

"I don't think that ball would've rolled another half-inch," Leonard said. "It just barely got there the greens are so dry and fast."

It's Leonard's 12th PGA Tour title, his second at TPC Southwind and his first since the 2007 Valero Texas Open—also in a playoff. He closed with a 4-under 68 to match Allenby (65) and Immelman (69) at 4-under 276, the highest 72-hole total since this event moved to the TPC at Southwind course in 1989.

Leonard earned $1.08 million and now is fifth in the Ryder Cup standings with five Top 10s this year. He hasn't played in the Ryder Cup since 1999, when his 45-foot putt on the 17th hole at Brookline clinched the largest comeback in history.

Strangers still ask him most about that putt, not his 1997 British Open victory, and he even heard about it a couple times Sunday. It's why he is so eager to play his way back onto the Ryder Cup team.

"I don't know how much of a lock I am, but I feel pretty good about making it. I'm looking forward to being on that team, and I'm looking forward to us winning again soon," Leonard said.

It was almost a perfect day for the Texan who spent last week practicing in the Dallas heat, albeit wearing shorts and riding a cart. He started Sunday tied for seventh and was one of 10 who had a share of the lead at some point in the final round with the temperature feeling hotter than 100 degrees.

Leonard was the closest to a birdie on the first hole of the playoff on the par-4 18th only to come up a foot short. All three parred, sending the playoff to the island green at No. 11, where each had good shots.

Allenby, who came in undefeated worldwide in 10 playoffs, went first from 20 feet and missed a foot to the right. Leonard stroked in his putt next, the ball slowing near the cup to show off the Nike logo before falling in.

Immelman, who birdied the last three holes of regulation to join the playoff, had the shortest putt at 11 feet to push the playoff to a third hole in search of his second win in eight weeks. But he just missed, giving the title to Leonard.

"I was comfortable with my lie," Immelman said. "I felt like it was just left edge. I thought I hit a pretty good putt. It just didn't turn at all, finished right behind the hole unfortunately. But Justin made a great putt. Birdie to win is pretty nice."

Allenby said he thought his streak in playoffs had to come to an end sometime.

"I lost to a good putt. There's no bad thoughts about that," he said.

Sergio Garcia (66), Padraig Harrington (68), Boo Weekley (68) and Alex Cejka (70) tied for fourth at 3 under.

Leonard's victory kept him from wondering what happened after he had the lead to himself with a birdie on No. 15.

He missed a chance to pad that margin on the par-5 16th when his approach went over the green, and he had to salvage par. His tee shot on No. 17 went into the right rough, and Leonard chipped out into the fairway and pushed a par putt from 15 feet 3 feet past the hole.

On No. 18, Leonard still had a chance to win without a playoff. He stuck an iron from 176 yards to 13 feet and rolled a nice putt that missed just left of the hole.

Gavin Coles, the Australian whose only win this year was on the Nationwide Tour at the Louisiana Open, was the last player with a chance to win in 72 holes if he birdied the 18th. He sent his tee shot into the right rough, his second into a greenside bunker and blasted out over the green into the rough. He couldn't hole his chip to get into the playoff, then double bogeyed for a 71 and a 278 total that left him tied for eighth with Tom Pernice, who carded the tourney's best round at 63, and Scott Verplank (68).

"It was like a train wreck," Coles said.

Allenby walked over to the range to warm up, while Leonard grabbed a cool drink in the shade behind the 18th green before walking over to the range himself while the final two groups finished. Immelman, in the last group, two of the last three holes and had a 23-footer for birdie on No. 18 to make it a three-man playoff. He did, celebrating with a fist pump.

Only 12 players finished under par. Tim Clark started with a two-stroke lead before opening with a triple-bogey and finished with a 78 and tied for 18th.

AP

Justin Leonard holds his trophy after winning the Stanford St. Jude Championship golf tournament in Memphis, Tenn., Sunday, June 8, 2008. Leonard won the tournament on the second hole of a playoff against Robert Allenby and Trevor Immelman.

Joba better in 2nd start, Giambi homers to help Yankees beat Kansas City

NEW YORK (AP)—Joba Chamberlain bounced back from a disappointing first start with the Yankees, pitching into the fifth inning to help New York beat the Kansas City Royals 6-3 Sunday.

Jason Giambi hit a tiebreaking homer in the sixth and Bobby Abreu finished with a home run and three RBIs for the Yankees, who have won four of five. Johnny Damon got two more hits after going 6-for-6 with the game-winning single in New York's 12-11 comeback victory Saturday.

Red Sox 2, Mariners 1

In Boston, Justin Masterson pitched six strong innings and J.D. Drew hit a go-ahead homer for Boston, lifting the Red Sox over the Seattle Mariners.

Masterson (3-0) gave up one run on three hits and struck out four for Boston, which has won 15 of its last 16 at home and eight of 10 overall. Jonathan Papelbon pitched a perfect ninth for his 18th save.

Blue Jays 5, Orioles 4

In Toronto, Roy Halladay won his fourth straight start, Vernon Wells homered and the Toronto Blue Jays snapped a four-game losing streak.

Marco Scutaro drove in two runs for Toronto, which avoided a three-game sweep.

White Sox 12, Twins 2

In Chicago, Nick Swisher and Alexei Ramirez homered as the Chicago White Sox routed the Minnesota Twins for their sixth straight win.

The latest outburst came exactly one week after manager Ozzie Guillen lashed out at his struggling hitters. They responded with 54 runs during this streak, and have scored 10 or more in three consecutive games for the first time since July 15-17, 2000, against St. Louis and Milwaukee.

Tigers 5, Indians 2

In Detroit, Curtis Granderson homered and Placido Polanco hit a key two-run single as the Detroit Tigers beat the Cleveland Indians.

Armando Galarraga (5-2) picked up the win, allowing two runs in 5 2-3 innings. Todd Jones pitching the ninth for his 10th save.

Rangers 6, Rays 3

In Arlington, Texas, David Murphy hit one of Texas' three homers and the Rangers beat bickering Tampa Bay despite playing without ailing hitting stars Josh Hamilton and Michael Young.

German Duran and Ramon Vazquez also homered for the Rangers. The Rays missed out on their first road sweep this season with a loss that included a scuffle between pitcher Matt Garza and catcher Dioner Navarro.

Athletics 7, Angels 3, 12 innings

In Oakland, California, Mark Ellis hit a grand slam with two outs in the 12th inning, and Oakland ended Los Angeles' season-best seven-game winning streak.

Ellis hit the first pitch from Chris Bootcheck (0-1) just inside the left-field foul pole for his second career game-ending homer and his third grand slam.

Phillies 6, Braves 3

In Atlanta, Ryan Howard drove in two runs in the ninth inning with his third double of the game and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Atlanta Braves to complete a three-game sweep.

Howard finished 3-for-5 with four RBIs.

Marlins 9, Reds 2

In Miami, Hanley Ramirez homered twice and Ryan Tucker pitched five effective innings to win his major league debut, leading Florida past Cincinnati.

Ken Griffey Jr. remained one home run shy of becoming the sixth player to reach 600. He went 0-for-1 with two walks before being replaced in the seventh.

Padres 8, Mets 6

In San Diego, pinch-hitter Tony Clark connected for a go-ahead, three-run homer off Billy Wagner with two outs in the eighth inning to give San Diego a four-game sweep of New York.

Wagner (0-1) relieved Duaner Sanchez with two outs and runners on first and second. The left-hander gave up an RBI single to Jody Gerut that cut New York's lead to 6-5. Clark then hit a full-count fastball over the center-field wall to extend the Padres' season-high winning streak to five games.

Cardinals 5, Astros 4

In Houston, Brendan Ryan hit a two-run single in the seventh inning to cap a St. Louis comeback fueled by two Houston errors.

Kyle Lohse (7-2) gave up a three-run homer to Lance Berkman, but otherwise pitched six strong innings to beat the Astros for the third time this season. Ryan Franklin struck out the side in the ninth for his eighth save.

Pirates 6, Diamondbacks 4

In Pittsburgh, Jason Bay's two-run double completed Pittsburgh's five-run fourth inning and the Pirates shook off Mark Reynolds' two home runs to beat Arizona.

Phil Dumatrait (3-3) was pulled after 5 2-3 innings on a sunny and humid 90-degree day, but still made his third consecutive effective start. He gave up two runs and four hits while walking two, and has allowed four earned runs over 18 2-3 innings (1.93 ERA) in his last three starts.

Giants 6, Nationals 3

In Washington, Barry Zito earned his second win of the season and Ray Durham finished with four hits, leading San Francisco past Washington.

Aaron Rowand's bad-hop single gave San Francisco the go-ahead run and capped a four-run fifth inning. Randy Winn hit a two-run single to tie it, and John Bowker's two-run homer in the seventh sealed the victory. The Giants have won the first three meetings in this four-game series.

Brewers 3, Rockies 2

In Denver, Jeff Suppan and three relievers limited Colorado to six hits as Milwaukee snapped a six-game slide at Coors Field.

Ryan Braun, Bill Hall and Gabe Kapler all had RBI singles for the Brewers. Joe Dillon scored two runs, both times after drawing walks.

Cubs 3, Dodgers 1

In Los Angeles, Jason Marquis took a two-hitter into the seventh inning and Chicago extended Brad Penny's winless streak to seven starts with a victory, salvaging a split of the four-game series with Los Angeles.

Marquis (4-3) allowed an unearned run and three hits over 6 1-3 innings, walked one and struck out two in his second-longest outing of the season.

Co-ed Soccer Summer League starts tonight

The NMIFA Co-ed Soccer Summer League kicks off tonight for a summer full of action. The first game is tonight at 5:15pm at the CPA Airport Field.

The summer league lasts for eight weeks, with games played on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons. Each team will play one game per week.

Games will start at 5:15pm on game days and will consist of two 35-minute halves with five-minute halftimes.

Players in the co-ed league hail from the NMIFA Men's, Women's, and Youth Leagues. Some of the players from the Men's and Women's National Teams also play.

Brad Ruszala, starting forward for the CNMI Men in this year's annual Marianas Cup, looks forward to competing against his counterpart on the CNMI Women's Team, Brenda Schultz.

"Last year's co-ed season was a great opportunity to go out and stretch my legs once a week and I'm really looking forward to winning my first co-ed game. Maybe I'll have more luck this year".

Teams were picked last night, but it is not too late to play. The registration form can be downloaded at http://nmifa.blogspot.com. Completed forms can be dropped off at the NMIFA office located on Beach Road in Garapan or emailed to nmifacoed@gmail.com.

The registration fee is only $15 and includes a co-ed T-shirt and eight weeks of play. For questions, contact co-ed league commissioner Angelo Villagomez at 285-6462. ***(NMIFA)***

NADAL

From Page 28

and at any Grand Slam since 1984, Nadal felt compelled to say: "Roger, I'm sorry."

"He dominated from the first point until the end," said Federer, who hadn't lost a 6-0 set since 1999, and hadn't won fewer than five games in a match since 2002. "It's the strongest Rafa that I've ever seen. He was more dominant than the previous years."

Federer, much to his chagrin, is in perfect position to make that comparison. For the fourth year running, he came to Paris needing a French Open championship to complete a career Grand Slam, something only five men have accomplished.

In 2005, Federer reached the semifinals, then lost to Nadal.

In 2006, 2007 and 2008, Federer went a step further, reaching the final, then came up short against his nemesis every time.

Think of it this way: Over the past four French Opens, Federer is 0-4 against Nadal, 23-0 against anyone else. Or this way: Federer is a combined 12-0 in finals at Wimbledon (beating Nadal the last two years), the U.S. Open and the Australian Open, and 0-3 in finals at the French Open.

"He no longer plays short balls, the way he did in the past. You can no longer attack him on his forehand, the way I could in the past," said Federer, now 6-11 overall against Nadal, 1-9 on clay. "He is getting much more aggressive, and it's becoming much more difficult."

That said, Federer insisted afterward he can win the clay-court major championship.

"I still go out of this tournament with a positive mind-set," he said. "Not with a mind-set: 'Oh my God, I had no chance today.'"

That might be. But had Federer figured out a way to win, it would have been considered an upset. Sound silly? The top-ranked player wins a match, and it's an upset?

Well, yes. Do not forget how invincible Nadal is on clay, and at this tournament. He's the first man since Bjorn Borg in 1980 to win the French Open without dropping a set, the first since Borg from 1978-81 to win the tournament four years in a row.

Sunday's victory also makes Nadal:

■ 28-0 for his career at the French Open;

■ 115-2 on clay since April 2005;

■ 22-1 in clay-court finals.

"I am humble," Nadal said, "but the numbers are the numbers."

His match statistics against Federer were stunning, the sort that make you want to go back and reread them.

Nadal held break points in 10 of Federer's 11 service games, converting eight times. He won the point 24 of the 42 times Federer went to the net. He won 16 of the 24 points that lasted 10 or more strokes, according to an unofficial tally compiled by The Associated Press.

TEAMWORK

From Page 28

She also gave kudos to the rest of her teammates for the extra effort they extended in the championship game.

"Our flanks Rachel Bandelin, Michi Tenorio, Kathy Pagapular, and Summer Palacios did a great job hustling back and forth from offense to defense in the hot sun. The whole team just did great. I'm really proud of everyone. Hopefully, everyone was able to meet their personal goals for this season. I had a blast!"

Shultz added that seeing her team and Smithereens battling for the 2008 women's league's perpetual cup was especially satisfying for her, given the teams' tough finishes last year.

"We really enjoyed playing the Smithereens in the finals because they had great sportsmanship and we were the bottom two teams together last season so it was exciting to know the worse either of us could do this season was second, which is still great. Saturday's game was not easy! We battled it out in the hot sun for two hours without ever giving up so really, all the players on both teams are winners in my book."

Championship or no championship, Schultz was just happy being on the soccer field with her closest friends almost every weekend last season.

"It was a pleasure being the captain of the PIC Paradise in Cleats this season. The ladies improved so much and we worked really well together as a team. We laughed a lot, learned a lot, and just had fun playing soccer which is what the recreational league is all about."

The rest of the team is made up of Sue Knecht, Terry McIntosh, Stephanie Taylor, Noi Horey, Jasonaire "Sonya" Lizama, Tree Diwisett, Dora Camacho, Amanda Allen, Jenny Linen, Chantelle Voutilainen, Michi Tenorio, Nicolette Seckeler, and Madison Schultz.

TSUNAMI

From Page 28

Tsunami Saipan also presented Daniel Villegas with the Tsunami Citizenship Award after the first-year swimmer inspired Saipan and Guam teams alike in his perseverance against long odds during the season.

Head coach Hiro Kimura said Villegas was presented the award because the swimmer was loved and trusted by everyone in the team.

"His positive thinking toward practice and doing his best at the swim meet impressed many people. Not only that, but he always kept promises and whenever he was unable to attend the practice, he always contacted the coach. He was the best example for the younger swimmers."

Villegas will leave for Hawaii this summer to pursue his college education.

Other swimmers that received annual awards were Marystar Welch (Best Effort Award), Kensuke Kimura (Funniest Swimmer Award), Shin Kimura (Sportsmanship Award), and Louie Nigh and Joey Night (Healthy Swimmer Award).

Tsunami Saipan also gave Hard Worker awards to Coloma Castro (beginners), Blessilda Maratita (tryout), Kaito Yanai (advance).

Named Most Improved Swimmers, meanwhile, were Mary Grace Maglalang, Daniel Camacho, Angel De Jesus, Arthur Sondhei, Kentaro Kitagawa, and Phillip Yoon (freestyle), Salofi Welch, Takumi Sugie, Angel Tan, and Ryosei Toda (breaststroke), Thea Minor, Alina Yoon, and Ritsuki Umeda (butterfly), Moena Takagi and Hiroto Yanai (backstroke), Fumika Umeda, Ashley Welch, and Edward Minami (diving), and Sam Park, Kaisei Toda, Daisuke Fitial, and Kosei Toda (kicking).

Last but not the least, Marianas Resort and Spa employee Gary De Guzman was given a Certificate of Appreciation for all his hard maintaining the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool clean and conditioning it.

Aside from head coach Kimura, the event was also graced by Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation president Bobby Winkfield, his daughter and former national swimmer Tamiko, Tsunami Saipan president Stan Good, and club officials Yuko Kimura and Millet Wong. Wong served as the banquet's emcee.

KIM

From Page 28

Jo (50), and Tigers' Ben Duenas (36).

Reyes, for his part, tapered off a bit from his .523 batting average (23-for-44) when he went 4-for-10 last week to wound up with an even .500 norm (27-for-54).

Rock Steady's Byron Kaipat is next with his .472 (17-for-36) with San Roque D-9ers' Greg Camacho rounding up the Top 3 in batting with his .464 (13-for-28).

Ford Rangers' Benwachi Taisacan and Korean Dreams' Jason M. Reyes are leading in triples with four apiece.

Tigers' Tony Pangelinan, Kabur's Dave Kapileo, Rock Steady teammates Tony Celis and Manny Sablan, and Komoro's Jang Hu Hyruk, meanwhile, are all leading the doubles category with four two-base hits each.

Rock Steady's Tyrone Omar continues to lord it over the runs department with 23 followed closely by Korean Dreams' Justin Reyes with 21.

In RBIs, John M. Reyes, Rock Steady catcher Manny Sablan, and D-9ers' John Tenorio are all tied in first with 13 apiece.

Taisacan also joined the homerun race after he hit one Friday during their game against the Tigers. The game also saw him hit for the cycle.

Other players with a homerun each are Tigers' Dennis Cruz, Kabur's Poland Masaharu, Rock Steady's Ton Manibusan, John Reyes, Komoro teammates Jang Ju Hyuk and Kim Jae Young, and Korean Dreams' Oliver Secharmidal.

In ERA, Rock Steady's 1-2 punch of Ton Palacios and Nick San Nicolas pace the category with 0.45 and 0.81, respectively. The two are followed by Rangers teammates Pete Tenorio (1.00) and Mel Sakisat (2.63). Komoro's Kim Jae Young bring up the rear with is 3.06.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	40	26	.606	–
Tampa Bay	37	26	.587	1 1/2
Toronto	33	32	.508	6 1/2
New York	32	31	.508	6 1/2
Baltimore	31	31	.500	7

Central Division

Chicago	36	26	.581	–
Minnesota	31	32	.492	5 1/2
Cleveland	28	35	.444	8 1/2
Detroit	26	36	.419	10
Kansas City	24	39	.381	12 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	39	25	.609	–
Oakland	34	29	.540	4 1/2
Texas	32	33	.492	7 1/2
Seattle	22	41	.349	16 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	39	26	.600	–
Florida	34	28	.548	3 1/2
Atlanta	32	32	.500	6 1/2
New York	30	32	.484	7 1/2
Washington	25	39	.391	13 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	40	24	.625	–
St. Louis	38	27	.585	2 1/2
Milwaukee	33	30	.524	6 1/2
Houston	32	32	.500	8
Pittsburgh	30	33	.476	9 1/2
Cincinnati	30	34	.469	10

West Division

Arizona	34	29	.540	–
Los Angeles	30	33	.476	4
San Francisco	28	35	.444	6
San Diego	28	37	.431	7
Colorado	24	39	.381	10

Yesterday's Games

Detroit 5, Cleveland 2
N.Y. Yankees 6, Kansas City 3
Toronto 5, Baltimore 4
Boston 2, Seattle 1
Chicago White Sox 12, Minnesota 2
Oakland 7, L.A. Angels 3, 12 innings
Texas 6, Tampa Bay 3
Florida 9, Cincinnati 2
Philadelphia 6, Atlanta 3
Pittsburgh 6, Arizona 4
San Francisco 6, Washington 3
St. Louis 5, Houston 4
Milwaukee 3, Colorado 2
San Diego 8, N.Y. Mets 6
Chicago Cubs 3, L.A. Dodgers 1

STANFORD ST JUDE CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP)–Scores after Sunday's final round of the St. Jude Championship, a $6 million (£4 million) U.S. PGA event at 7,239-yard, par-70 TPC Southwind:ºË

FINAL ROUND

x-Justin Leonard (4500), $1,080,000	68-73-67-68	276
Robert Allenby (2200), $528,000	71-71-69-65	276
Trevor Immelman (2200), $528,000	74-66-67-69	276
Sergio Garcia (984), $236,250	68-72-71-66	277
Padraig Harrington (984), $236,250	71-72-66-68	277
Boo Weekley (984), $236,250	65-75-69-68	277
Alex Cejka (984), $236,250	69-69-69-70	277
Tom Pernice, Jr. (725), $174,000	72-72-71-63	278
Scott Verplank (725), $174,000	71-72-67-68	278
Gavin Coles (725), $174,000	73-64-70-71	278
Bob Heintz (600), $144,000	73-70-68-68	279
Vijay Singh (600), $144,000	67-71-70-71	279
Tim Herron (455), $109,200	74-67-69-70	280
Jason Dufner (455), $109,200	69-68-72-71	280
Bob Estes (455), $109,200	74-65-70-71	280
Dean Wilson (455), $109,200	69-68-71-72	280
Stephen Ames (455), $109,200	69-71-68-72	280
Camilo Villegas (315), $75,600	71-71-71-68	281
Dan Forsman (315), $75,600	70-70-72-69	281
Michael Letzig (315), $75,600	70-68-72-71	281
J.P. Hayes (315), $75,600	70-71-69-71	281
Bill Haas (315), $75,600	71-69-67-74	281
Tim Clark (315), $75,600	72-69-64-76	281
Jeff Maggert (181), $43,445	71-70-74-67	282
Heath Slocum (181), $43,445	73-67-74-68	282
Davis Love III (181), $43,445	68-70-75-69	282
Brett Rumford (181), $43,445	69-73-70-70	282
Stuart Appleby (181), $43,445	68-76-68-70	282
Bart Bryant (181), $43,445	69-76-67-70	282
Glen Day (181), $43,445	69-71-71-71	282
Kenny Perry (181), $43,445	71-71-69-71	282
Bob Tway (181), $43,445	72-71-68-71	282
Tommy Armour III (181), $43,445	66-71-73-72	282
Omar Uresti (181), $43,445	70-69-71-72	282
Jeff Overton (132), $31,650	70-71-70-72	283
Brandt Snedeker (132), $31,650	69-71-69-74	283
David Toms (113), $27,000	72-72-71-69	284
Craig Kanada (113), $27,000	68-72-74-70	284
Richard S. Johnson (113), $27,000	72-73-69-70	284
Vaughn Taylor (113), $27,000	70-72-71-71	284
Marc Turnesa (113), $27,000	68-69-70-77	284
John Huston (83), $19,834	71-69-75-70	285
Brandt Jobe (83), $19,834	71-74-70-70	285
Fredrik Jacobson (83), $19,834	73-72-69-71	285
Michael Bradley (83), $19,834	69-68-76-72	285
Scott Sterling (83), $19,834	70-70-73-72	285
Rich Beem (83), $19,834	71-72-70-72	285
Jeff Gove (83), $19,834	70-73-67-75	285
Brenden Pappas (61), $14,660	73-70-77-66	286
Ken Duke (61), $14,660	72-72-73-69	286
Lucas Glover (61), $14,660	71-71-74-70	286
Woody Austin (61), $14,660	71-72-73-70	286
Bob May (61), $14,660	75-69-70-72	286
Marco Dawson (61), $14,660	71-71-72-72	286
Jonathan Byrd (57), $13,740	69-75-73-70	287
Jin Park (57), $13,740	73-71-67-76	287
Todd Demsey (56), $13,440	73-72-72-71	288
Jimmy Walker (56), $13,440	70-74-72-72	288
Jim McGovern (56), $13,440	71-68-72-77	288
David Duval (54), $13,020	70-75-72-72	289
Garrett Willis (54), $13,020	72-73-69-75	289
Brian Gay (54), $13,020	76-67-70-76	289
Kevin Streelman (54), $13,020	74-69-69-77	289
Webb Simpson (0), $12,660	71-72-75-72	290
Charley Hoffman (53), $12,660	69-75-71-75	290
Dicky Pride (52), $12,360	75-70-75-71	291
Stephen Leaney (52), $12,360	70-74-73-74	291
Patrick Sheehan (52), $12,360	73-70-72-76	291
Eric Axley (50), $11,940	70-71-78-73	292
Brad Elder (50), $11,940	69-76-73-74	292
Harrison Frazar (50), $11,940	72-70-74-76	292
Troy Matteson (50), $11,940	74-70-71-77	292
Billy Andrade (49), $11,640	76-68-73-76	293

FedExCup points in parentheses

x-won on second hole of playoff

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SML LEADERS

Batting

John Reyes, Korean Dreams	.500
Byron Kaipat, Rock Steady	.472
Greg Camacho, D-9ers	.464
Tony Camacho, D-9ers	.457
Kim Jae Young, Komoro	.432
Mike Pangelinan, Falcons	.429
Manny Sablan, Rock Steady	.415
Dane Lizama, Rock Steady	.413
Jason M. Reyes, Korean Dreams	.412

Doubles

Ton Pangelinan, Tigers	4
Dave Kapileo, Kabur	4
Tony Celis, Rock Steady	4
Manny Sablan, Rock Steady	4
Jang Ju Hyuk, Komoro	4

Triples

Benwachi Taisacan, Ford Rangers	4
Jason Reyes, Korean Dreams	4
John Reyes, Korean Dreams	3
Nick San Nicolas, Rock Steady	3

Runs

Tyrone Omar, Rock Steady	23
Justin Reyes, Korean Dreams	21

RBI

John M. Reyes, Rock Steady	13
Manny Sablan, Rock Steady	13
John Tenorio, D-9ers	13

Home Runs

Benwachi Taisacan, Ford Rangers	1
Dennis Cruz, Tigers	1
Poland Masaharu, Kabur	1
Ton Manibusan, Rock Steady	1
John Reyes, Korean Dreams	1
Jang Ju Hyuk, Komoro	1
Kim Jae Young, Komoro	1
Oliver Secharmidal, Korean Dreams	1

ERA

Ton Palacios, Rock Steady	0.45
Nick San Nicolas, Rock Steady	0.81
Pete Tenorio, Ford Rangers	1.00
Mel Sakisat, Ford Rangers	2.63
Kim Jae Young, Komoro	3.06

Strikeouts

Kim Jae Young, Komoro	91
Shane Mendiola, Korean Dreams	50
Kim Hyung Jo, Kabur	50
Ben Duenas, Tigers	36

Saipan Junior All-Stars

Photos By MARK RABAGO

Saipan Junior All-Stars reliever Ricardo Dela Cruz throws from the mound in their first game against Tinian in the 2008 CNMI Junior League District Tournament.

The Saipan and Tinian Junior All-Stars pose at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field following their championship game in the 2008 CNMI Junior League District Tournament last Sunday. Saipan shut out Tinian 11-0 in the mercy-rule shortened title game.

The Saipan Junior All-Stars take their place on the field during the opening of the 2008 CNMI Junior District Tournament Saturday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Saipan Junior All-Stars s Justin Kintol bides his time on the batters box against Tinian pitcher Vicente Cruz in Sunday's title match.

Saipan's McGarett Duenas successfully slides to second base as Tinian's Benjie Decena calls out for the ball in their championship game Sunday.

Far left, Saipan's Nathan Guerrero waits for a pitch from Tinian's Deville Maui in Sunday's championship game.

McGarett Duenas of Saipan takes a lead from second base as Tinian's Vicente Cruz looks in the championship game Sunday.

Saipan Junior All Stars' Anthony Salas goes to first base after unintentionally being hit by a pitch from Tinian's J.R. Santos, who is seen here looking on, in the first game last Saturday.

Saipan's Harry Nakamura attempts to catch the shallow pop-up of Tinian's Elmo Hoffschneider in their championship game Sunday.

Saipan Junior All-Stars starting pitcher Lamarc Iguel combined with reliever Harry Nakamura to blank the Tinian Junior All-Stars in their championship game last Sunday.

Leonard wins St. Jude on 2nd playoff hole

Justin Leonard thought he won on the final hole of regulation only to see his ball go left of the cup. Then he was a foot away from victory on the first playoff hole.

25

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Celtics hold off Lakers 108-102, take 2-0 lead

The Boston Celtics left the comforts of home exalted and exhausted, halfway to hoisting a 17th NBA championship banner. They're up 2-0 in the NBA finals. But they needed some of their leprechaun's luck to get there.

24

Nadal wins fourth French Open in a row

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP TENNIS WRITER

Early in the second set of the French Open final, not quite halfway into what would wind up as Roger Federer's worst loss in 173 career Grand Slam matches, he watched intently as Rafael Nadal pushed a forehand wide to end a lengthy exchange.

Federer saw the ball land out, punched the air and yelled. Neither the exact words—English? French? Swiss German?—nor the precise sentiment—delight? relief?—could be discerned. That he would be so moved was noteworthy in itself.

A man who has won 12 major championships, who has been ranked No. 1 a record 227 weeks in a row, who has placed himself squarely in any discussion about the greatest players in tennis history, found significance in the winning of one measly point.

Why?

Because Nadal so thoroughly, so untheatrically, outplayed Federer in every possible facet Sunday, beating him 6-1, 6-3, 6-0 to win a fourth consecutive title at Roland Garros.

During the trophy ceremony following the most lopsided men's final at the French Open since 1977,

See NADAL on Page 26

AP

Spain's Rafael Nadal jubilates after defeating Switzerland's Roger Federer during the men's final at the French Open tennis tournament in Paris on Sunday June 8, 2008.

'Teamwork led to victory'

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pacific Islands Club's Paradise in Cleats pose with the 2008 Women's Recreational Football League perpetual trophy after beating Matt Smith's Smithereens, 2-1, in the finals last Saturday at the CPA Airport Field.

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Pacific Islands Club's Paradise in Cleats' 2-1 overtime win over Matt Smith's Smithereens in the finals of the 2008 Women's Recreational Football League was all about teamwork.

In an email to the *Saipan Tribune*, PIC captain Brenda Schultz said the whole team played outstandingly well last Saturday.

"Don Decha held the middle and never seemed to get tired. She kept the ball from getting behind us so many times. Divya 'The Destroyer' Sharma delivered at defense like she always does. She is quick and can keep up with those quick Smithereen forwards which is not easy."

See TEAMWORK on Page 26

Kim, Reyes pace pitching and batting

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Komoro's Kim Jae Young and Korean Dreams' John M. Reyes continued to lead the strikeouts and batting categories, respectively, of the 2008 Budweiser Saipan Major League.

In a list submitted by BSML statistician Joe Lizma, Kim currently has the most strikeouts in the league with 105, followed by Korean Dreams' Shane Mendiola (91), Kabur's Kim Hyung

See KIM on Page 26

Tsunami Saipan marks first anniversary

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

MARK RABAGO

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmers and officials are up on the stage at the end of their first-year anniversary celebration Sunday at Charley's Cabaret at the Pacific Islands Club.

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan celebrated its first anniversary last Sunday with a recognition banquet and a water park party at the Pacific Islands Club.

More than 70 of the fledgling club's swimmers, parents, and supporters crammed Charley's Cabaret during the recognition banquet where Tsunami Saipan honored the team's medalists, top performers, most improved swimmers, and other accomplishments of the past year.

The Most Outstanding Swimmer award went to Rezne Wong after the Marianas High School student was hands down Tsunami Saipan's best swimmer in 2007-2008.

Wong collected five gold medals in the Guam International Meet last December and then added first place finishes in the Saipan Heptathlon and Saipan International Meet in February and March, respectively.

He also came in first in the 2008 Saipan Ocean Swim and had a four gold, three silver, and a bronze medal haul in last month's 2008 Guam Swimming Championships.

On top of that the 17-year-old also broke two age group records (15-16 100m breastroke and 16-17 100m breaststroke) and one CNMI national record (100 breaststroke) this past year.

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